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2024 WESTERN NEW YORK REGION AWARDS BANQUET

The 2024 Western New York Region Banquet was held on Saturday, May 11th, 2024 at the Clarion Hotel Marina & Conference Center in Dunkirk, NY. Chris Porter was the Banquet Committee Chair. Emily Williams was in charge of fundraising for the event. Ellen Conrad headed up the Awards Committee and was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Special thanks go out to the WNY Region Awards Committee for all of their work in reviewing and submitting nominations for this year's awards.

Ellen Conrad - Allegany Nordic - WNY Awards Advisor

Barry Harris - Cockaigne

Kim Crotty - Holimont

Duncan Black - Kissing Bridge

Erin Francis - Buffalo Ski Center

Mark Roman - Denton Hill

Dan Meess - Holiday Valley

Jessy Smulski - Peek'n Peak

The program opened at 7:00pm with welcome remarks from Chuck Dunn, the WNY Region Director, and Butch MacQueen; NSP National Board Member. Following the invocation from Rev. Gary Gossel, a delicious meal was served to the roughly 100 attendees.

The ever popular Basket Raffle was held again this year with prize baskets being provided by many Patrols.

Following Dinner, the program began with a Memorial Moment to pay tribute to those Patrollers from our region that we have lost over the past year. Those Patrollers include:

Donald Anderson - Peek'n Peak

Jeff Burgess - Holiday Valley / Ski Wing

Margaret (Peggy) Hanavan - Kissing Bridge

Richard Herr - Kissing Bridge

Jeff Holmes - Glenwood Acres / Kissing Bridge

Kenneth King - Glenwood Acres

Florence (Floss) Kirkner - Donner Ski Ranch / Kissing Bridge

Pete Stapell - Bluemont / Holimont

The Awards program began with the recognition of 2 Patrollers that have achieved 50 or more years of service to the National Ski Patrol. Following that, recognition was given to new Region Patrollers, Region Young Adult Patrollers, new Senior Patrollers, and then into the Region, Division and National awards presentations. Below is a list of the awards that were presented at the 2024 WNY Regional Awards Banquet.



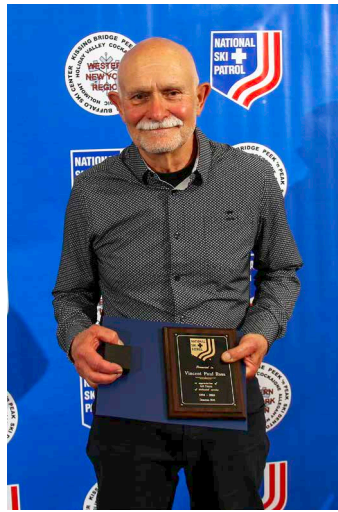
YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Stan Martin - 50 years of NSP Service
Kissing Bridge

Vincent Paul Ross - 60 years of NSP Service
Denton Hill



Stan Martin



Vincent Paul Ross

NEW REGION PATROLLERS

Buffalo Ski Center: Seanne Dattilo, Kevin Budin, Nicholas Lunde

Cockaigne Ski Patrol: Clint Peyton, Bryan Daniels

Holiday Valley: Justin Baryza, Russell Lauber, Taryn Mason, Steve Molinda, Josh Murphy, Ryan Patterson

Holimont Ski Patrol: Ashley Cedro, Michelle Opshal, Corlene Orffeo

Kissing Bridge: Joel Bart, Emma Crooks, Maria Kaisler, Brandon Montross, Mark Palumbo, Myles Patterson

Peek 'n Peak Ski Patrol: Em Allen, Tom McNinch, Kyle Porter, Elisa Wasberg

YOUNG ADULT PATROLLERS THAT ATTENDED THE EASTERN DIVISION YAP SUMMIT

The 2024 Young Adult Patrollers Summit was held at Smugglers Notch, Vermont from March 8 - 11th. The following WNY Region YAPs were able to attend:

Cooper Biersbach - Holimont

Kate Tedesco - Holimont

Kyle Porter - Peek'n Peak

NEW SENIOR PATROLLERS

These patrollers successfully completed all the requirements to obtain the Senior Certification this year:

Ansley Kelly - Holiday Valley

Cooper Biersbach - Holimont

Steve Rawlings - Cockaigne

Alicia Furey - Peek'n Peak

Charles Armstrong - Peek'n Peak

Juliane Maciejewski - Kissing Bridge



New Senior Patrollers from L-R: Ansley Kelly, Cooper Biersbach, Alicia Furey, Charles Armstrong. Not pictured; Steve Rawlings, Juliane Maciejewski

WESTERN NY REGION AWARDS

JACK MCKENNA OUTSTANDING SENIOR CANDIDATE AWARD Ansley Kelly of Holiday Valley

This award recognizes an individual who completed the final requirements for the Senior program during the current season and demonstrated favorable effort, attitude, performance on Senior evaluations, and improvement in skills. Nominations for this award may be made only by Senior emergency management and Senior S&T training staff. Recipient will be selected by the Senior Coordinator with input from the Senior training staff as necessary.



Ansley Kelly

SENIOR YAP SPECIAL RECOGNITION Cooper Biersbach of Holimont

The senior program is often viewed as an adult learning program. However, it is open to all patrollers. This year we have the opportunity to recognize the significant achievements of one of our own YAP members who challenged himself with undertaking the senior program, first by completing OEC in the 2022-2023 season, and then OET in the following 2023-2024 season, along with the completion of multiple electives. This patroller is none other than Cooper Biersbach. These accomplishments were undertaken while staying focused on his school and sports commitments and while also applying to colleges. Over the

past 24 months, this individual has demonstrated significant growth in maturity, skills and leadership abilities, setting an example for his peers. After finishing in the top 5 last year for skiing and toboggans both, he joined with two other YAPs to represent Western NY at this year's YAP Summit held in early March at Smuggler's Notch. At this year's event, he went on to finish 3rd in skiing, 1st in toboggans, and 3rd overall. These accomplishments and successes in these challenging programs are an achievement at any age, and all the more noteworthy as a young adult patroller. We look forward to seeing his patrolling career continue.



Cooper Biersbach and Thad Brown

MIKE REID MEMORIAL INSTRUCTOR AWARD **Adam Reese of Peek'n Peak**

This award recognizes a certified instructor in the WNY Region (open to all disciplines, including S&T, OEC, CPR, AED, instructor development, avalanche, and mountain travel & rescue) whose service extends beyond working with candidates.



Adam Reese and Butch MacQueen

AMBASSADOR OF THE SLOPES AWARD **Chris Case of Peek'n Peak**

This award recognizes a patroller who promotes a favorable image of the ski patrol to the skiing and snowboarding public. Factors to consider may include attentiveness to safety, customer service, community service, and professionalism. This patroller's actions enhance the public's impression of the resort, the sport, and/or the ski patrol.

DIANE AND FRANK SMITH SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD **Barb Cosgrove of Buffalo Ski Center**

This award recognizes a patroller from any WNY patrol who constantly works behind the scenes without holding patrol office or a significant NSP position. A "doer" who performs activities such as committee work, fund-raising, maintenance, work parties, shift supervision, recordkeeping, planning, training, etc. at the patrol level and/or for the NSP.



Barb Cosgrove

WILL WENDELL AWARD **Gordon Gibbons of Peek'n Peak**

this award recognizes a patroller who dedicates time and talent to the training of candidates and/or mentoring of inexperienced patrollers. May include training in OEC, S&T, snowmobile operations, patrol room procedures, resort practices, and other areas. The patroller may or may not be a certified instructor.

GEORGE "SKIP" PFISTER MEMORIAL AWARD **Kate Tedesco of Holimont**

This award recognizes a patroller involved in the instruction of other patrollers in any of the NSP programs who displays Skip's outstanding volunteer spirit. The candidate must have successfully completed the Senior OES program, the Instructor Development course and be actively involved in the mentoring phase of becoming an instructor.



Kate Tedesco

EASTERN DIVISION PATROLLER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Adam Reese - Peek'n Peak

Damon Flick - Denton Hill

This award is given for outstanding devotion and service at the local patrol level. These individuals have donated many years of time and talent in support of the local patrol.



Adam Reese

EASTERN DIVISION PATRIOT STAR

Charles "Jay" Englert

Holimont Patrol - US Air Force

Brian Declan Meagher

Holimont Patrol - US Air Force

This award is given to all who have served and been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Military.



Charles "Jay" Englert and Rick McAvoy

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Cynthia Taylor
Alumni

This alumni patroller has demonstrated exceptional service to the National Ski Patrol through her long-standing dedication to the Senior Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) Program.



Cynthia Taylor

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Allison Lang
Kissing Bridge

Awarded for her excellence in providing instruction and guidance in OEC, CPR and AED training.

YELLOW MERIT STAR (NON-MEDICAL)

The Yellow Merit Star is awarded to patrollers for any outstanding act or service to the National Ski Patrol.

Monica Lee Zablotny of **Allegany Nordic**

In recognition and acknowledgement of 8 years as exceptional WNY Region Secretary.



Monica Lee Zablotny

Dave Gossel **Holimont**

In recognition of 9 seasons as outstanding Region Legal Advisor.



Dave Gossel

Bill McCasey **Alumni**

In recognition of 6 seasons as assistant RD and Fundraising chair.



Bill McCasey

Dave McLallen **Peek'n Peak**

In recognition for his dedication to the Senior OEC program.



Dave McLallen

Dan Meess Holiday Valley

In recognition of his dedicated service in the Western New York Region as Region Director from 2018 to 2024.



Dan Meess

Butch MacQueen Allegany Nordic

For service as an exceptional Region Awards Advisor for the past five seasons and is now working with our new awards advisor in this sixth, transition year.



Butch MacQueen

John Zajac Holiday Valley

In recognition of 25 years as outstanding WNY Region Webmaster.

MEDICAL MERIT STARS

Perhaps the most coveted NSP awards are Merit Stars: Purple, Blue, Green, and Yellow.

Purple Merit Star is given to a patroller who has “saved a human life through emergency care and the use of ski patrol skills.”

Blue Merit Star is given to patrollers who played a supporting role “using emergency care in an attempt to save a human life.”

Green Merit Star is given to “NSP patrollers for an outstanding act of heroism that does not meet the lifesaving requirements of the Purple Merit Star.”

Yellow Merit Star is given “to NSP patrollers for any outstanding act or service to the National Ski Patrol.”

Red Merit Star is intended to recognize individuals who worked a medical incident where the patient suffered an extremely serious or irreversible life-altering condition

but whose life was never at risk. This is a new Western NY Region award this year.

These merit star awards are listed by incident showing which merit star each individual was awarded.

JULY 2022 - GARY GOSSEL RESIDENCE

Gary Gossel performed CPR on his daughter, saving her life.

PURPLE MERIT STAR Gary Gossel - Holimont



Gary Gossel

HOLIDAY VALLEY - CPR ON A MALE SKIER

These patrollers responded to an unresponsive male skier after receiving a call from the Cattaraugus County 911 Dispatch Center.

PURPLE MERIT STAR Anthony Crowley - Holimont & Holiday Valley Ben Graham - Holiday Valley

BLUE MERIT STAR Greg Boberg - Holiday Valley Larry Schottke - Holiday Valley



Greg Boberg

HOLIDAY VALLEY - ACCIDENT AT TAMARACK CLUB

These patrollers responded to an accident at the Tamarack Club.

BLUE MERIT STAR

Benjamin Graham - Holiday Valley

YELLOW MERIT STAR

Jamel Perkins - Holiday Valley

Mike Oberholzer - Holiday Valley

PEEK'N PEAK - YOUNG SKI INSTRUCTOR COLLIDED WITH TREES AND TELEPHONE POLE

These patrollers responded to a critical call involving a young ski instructor who had lost control on a headwall and collided with trees and a telephone pole.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Matt Hersch - Peek'n Peak

Harry "Tom" McNinch - Peek'n Peak

Steve Snyder - Peek'n Peak

Elisa Wasberg - Peek'n Peak

HOLIMONT 2023 - INJURED BOY ON THE HILL WITH A HEAD INJURY

These patrollers responded to an after hours incident that was called in by one of the groomers.

PURPLE MERIT STAR

Michael Feuerstein - Holimont

BLUE MERIT STAR

Rick Chapman - Holimont

Joe Kloc - Holimont

YELLOW MERIT STAR

Daniel O'Connor - Holimont

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Dr. Austin Kloc - Son of Joe Kloc



Daniel O'Connor and Joe Kloc

HOLIMONT - SKIER COLLISION

These patrollers responded to an incident involving 2 skiers that collided at high speed.

RED MERIT STAR

Martha Mangan - Holimont

Michael Bailey - Holimont

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Rick McAvoy - Holimont

Kim Downey - Holimont



From L-R: Rick McAvoy, Kim Downey and Mike Bailey

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Jay Biersbach
Holimont

For his service as the Region OET Administrator from 2018 to 2023 and as the Region Certified Advisor.



Jay Biersbach

Kim Crotty
Holimont

For her continued service as the WNY Region Treasurer since 2012.



Kim Crotty

Charles Dunn
Kissing Bridge

For his service as the WNY Region OEC Administrator from 2019 to the present.



Charles Dunn

Bob Frazier
Peek'n Peak

For his outstanding service as the Western New York Region Instructor Development Advisor from 2013 to the present.



Bob Frazier

Sadie Prescott
Denton Hill

For her continued service as the Senior OEC Advisor for the Western New York Region for the past 7 years.

Denice Kaus
Holiday Valley

For her service as the WNY Region Women's Program Advisor from 2010 to the present.



Denice Kaus

Mary MacQueen
Allegany Nordic

For her continued service as the WNY Region MTR Advisor and MTR Instructor for the past 8 years.



Mary MacQueen

William Dice
Alumni

For his service as Medical Co-Advisor from 2008 to 2021.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award is to be given to individuals who have performed extraordinary service to the National Ski Patrol and the skiing Public over a long period of time. (A minimum of 20 years) This is distinguished by exceptional devotion to duty and outstanding performance.

Dan Meess
Holiday Valley

For outstanding service to the National Ski Patrol for over 40 years.



Dan Meess

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

An honor bestowed upon a patroller who demonstrates leadership and exemplary service to the National Ski Patrol beyond activities with the home patrol. Partial completion of the Senior Program is required for LCA and Senior Patroller status is required for a National Appointment.

Thad Brown - #12361 - Peek'n Peak
Tim Jackson - #12375 - Holimont



Thad Brown

LEADERSHIP COMMENDATION AWARD

The Leadership Commendation award is convey to patrollers who have demonstrated leadership, diplomacy, positive attitude, and exemplary qualities of patrolling ability with service beyond the local patrol level. This service may be to the region, division or national organization.

Leanne Carlson - #8591 - Peek'n Peak



Leanne Carlson

WESTERN NEW YORK REGION PATROLLER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes an outstanding patroller who sets an example for others through service to the local patrol, ski resort and NSP service through their leadership and behind-the-scenes efforts, and through attitude, effort, skills, accomplishments and length of NSP service.

Kristen Russo - Holiday Valley



Kristen Russo

LONG TIME PATROLLER JOINS HEAVEN'S PATROL

We learned on May 1, 2024, that our dear friend and fellow patroller, Florence M. Kirkner, National appointment number 84, was called to join Heaven's Ski Patrol. "Floss" as she was known to her friends, was 99 years old when she left us. She would have celebrated her centennial birthday on October 15th.



Florence M. "Floss" Kirkner

Floss joined the NSP in 1948, and besides being a fulltime teacher, she was exceptionally active in her community and ski patrol activities. She took active leadership roles in her town of Orchard Park, NY, in the YMCA, the American Red Cross, the Girl Scouts and the Canadian Ski Patrol.

What she is most recognized for is her role in the NSP Avalanche Program. She was one of the first women in the NSP to take the Monty Atwater Avalanche Patch course in 1955, earning patch # 82. She felt this information was so important that she included the basics of avalanche rescue at Fall Refreshers.

Along with other Atwater trained patrollers, they began the development of a basic avalanche course which became the NSP Circle A course.

In approximately 1964, she took the Avalanche Instructor Course and became National Avalanche Instructor # 224. She was then named as the Western New York Region Avalanche Advisor. She maintained that certification for the next 36 years. From 1999 through 2005, she was an Avalanche Instructor Trainer. In addition to her avalanche training, she was involved with the "Junior Patroller Program", now known as the YAP Program. She helped develop 11 Divisional and 5 National Junior Seminars.

Besides being recognized for her work with a DSA, an MSA, and a plethora of other ski patrol awards, she received National Appointment # 84 in 1953!

On Friday, May 10, this 99-year old lady was to be announced as our newest Hall of Fame member, and receive proclamations from the following:

President Biden
US Senators Schumer and Gillibrand
Congressman Langworthy
NY State Governor Kathy Hochul
NY State Senator Gillivan, and
NY State Assemblyman Rivera

Please join us in recognizing this Posthumous appointment to the Hall of Fame for:

Florence M. Kirkner
Kissing Bridge Ski Patrol
Western New York Region

2024 Enhanced Patroller School

Friday, September 13th - Sunday September 15th



Swain Resort
2275 County Road 24, Swain, NY 14884

Cost is \$100.00

Improve your skills, meet new people, and have fun!
Past activities include OEC, knot tying and low-angle rescue, MCI and lift evac.
Camp on-site for the weekend, meals will be provided.

Participants must register online through the NSP Center for Learning - first come first serve.
Search for Patroller Enrichment Seminar hosted by Swain Ski Resort - Genesee Valley Region

Any questions, email EnhancedPatrollerSchool@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Here are some important dates for the Western New York Region that you will want to get on your calendar

OEC REFRESHERS

September 21st - Buffalo Ski Center
September 21st - Holiday Valley
October 5th - Kissing Bridge
October 20th - Denton Hill at Ski Sawmill
October 20th - Allegany State Park
October 27th - Peak'n Peek
November 9th - Holimont

2025 AWARDS DEADLINES

March 3rd, 2025 deadline - All Outstanding National Awards, i.e., Outstanding Patrol, Outstanding Administrator, etc.
March 18, 2025 deadline - All National Appointments/ Leadership Commendation/ Distinguish Service Awards.
March 18, 2025 deadline - Merit Stars- Blue, Purple, Yellow, Patroller Cross.
April 21 2025 deadline - Western New York Regional Awards nominations.
April 21, 2025 deadline - Patriot Star and Patroller Achievement Awards.

FREE RECRUITMENT MARKETING MATERIALS

The NSP now has new recruitment marketing materials for ski patrol and bike patrol. All members can access these recruiting pieces for free, available in both digital and print formats. Simply select the desired assets, download, and print or upload. Explore more under the Marketing section in the Document Library. More materials coming soon!



2024-2025 SENIOR PROGRAM

It's not too early to start thinking about the Senior program for the upcoming ski season. The Senior Patroller program is a national continuing education program in which Patrollers can enhance their skills in managing emergency scenarios, toboggan handling and personal skiing. This course also prepares Patrollers for leadership positions within the NSP. The program consists of core and elective components relative to Alpine and Nordic Patrollers. The program is administered at the Division level and recorded by NSP.

To get started in the program contact your Patrol Director. Your Patrol Director will determine whether you are ready to enter the Senior Patroller program and if so, will then sign your application, which is found [here](#). Your next step will be to decide whether to do the OET or the OEC Module first, or to do both courses concurrently. Contact your Region Senior OET and Senior OEC advisors, who will be able to explain how the programs are conducted in your Region and advise you in your path through the program.

Most Patrollers are able to complete the Senior OEC program in one year, while many find two years necessary to complete the OET portion. Your success will depend on your present skill levels and your ability to train within each program. Both programs will provide you with ample opportunities to increase your skills and confidence in your patrolling career. There is no time limit on how long it may take you to complete the program.

Many areas and patrols have incentives for becoming a Senior Patroller. These may include anything from shift priorities to financial benefits from area management. As a Senior Patroller the skills you obtain through this process will be an asset to your patrol and ski area.

THE SENIOR CORE COMPONENTS ARE:

Senior Alpine Patroller

- Senior OEC Module
- Senior OET Module
- Three Electives from the Senior Patroller Elective List

Senior Nordic Patroller

- Senior OEC Module
- Nordic Senior Ski & Toboggan Program
- Mountain Travel & Rescue II Course
- Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue, or higher-level course
- One additional elective from Senior Patroller Elective list

Note: This information was copied directly from the NSP Eastern Division website.

SENIOR PATROLLER ELECTIVE LIST

EDUCATION COURSES

- Instructor Development course
- Mountain Travel and Rescue Fundamentals course OR Mountain Travel and Rescue 1 course
- Mountain Travel and Rescue 2 course (required for Senior Nordic Patroller candidates)
- Introduction to Avalanche Safety and Rescue
- Standard or Level 1 Avalanche course OR Level 1 Avalanche for Rescue Personnel course.
- Level 2 Avalanche for Rescue Personnel course
- Patroller Education Conference ("Powderfall")
- National Avalanche School didactic sessions
- National Avalanche School field sessions
- Skiing Enhancement Seminar
- Ski Trainer Workshop
- Toboggan Enhancement Seminar
- OEC Enhancement Seminar (two modules equal one Senior Patroller elective)
- Incident Command System Modules:
 - ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700 (three modules equal one Senior Patroller elective)

LEADERSHIP COURSES

- Patroller Enrichment Seminar
- NSP leadership module, course, or equivalent course approved by the Board of Directors
- NSP instructor status (any discipline)
- NSP instructor trainer appointment (any discipline)
- Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) Certified Level II
- PSIA Certified Level III
- BLS CPR Instructor or Instructor Trainer certification (American Heart Association, American Red Cross, National Safety Council, American Safety and Health Institute, or Medic First Aid)
- AED Instructor Course (AHA, ARC, NSC, ASHI, or Medic First Aid)

Note: This information was copied directly from the NSP Eastern Division website.

