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WNY REGION SENIOR PROGRAM HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

SENIOR OET REPORT

by *Thad Brown - WNY Region OET Advisor*

Following on the heels of last season, we started the year with a sizable group of 14 Senior candidates representing Kissing Bridge, Holiday Valley, Holimont, Cockaigne, Buffalo Ski Center, and Peek'n Peak. Our goal remains to create an environment where patrollers in the area can come to grow their skiing, boarding, and toboggan handling skills on senior terrain. We conducted 8 clinics including the day-long evaluation and a full day TES (Toboggan Enhancement Seminar) to provide additional instruction time. This was a registered course and can be used as a senior elective. Further instructing was also made available throughout the season at local areas to those seeking additional support. At the conclusion of the program, 10 individuals took the evaluation, 5 passed both modules of the evaluation, and 2 passed one (these individuals are half complete and may return to test out on the remaining module). Successful candidates were: Hanna Lee - Holiday Valley, Zac Amigone - Holiday Valley, Scott Welka - Holiday Valley, Micheal O'Shea - Holimont, Jonathan Sowinski - Holimont, Barb Cosgrove - Buffalo Ski Center - Skiing Portion, Ryan Patterson - Holiday Valley - Skills/Toboggan portion.



Pictured L-R: Zac Amigone, Mike O'Shea, Scott Welka. Not pictured, Hanna Lee, Jonathan Sowinski, Barb Cosgrove and Ryan Patterson



PHOTOS FROM THE SENIOR OET EVALUATION



SENIOR OEC REPORT

by Amanda Notarius & Chris Porter - Senior OEC Training Coordinators

The 2025 WNY Senior OEC Program was a great success! We initially had 11 candidates expressing interest with 9 officially starting the program. Of those, 8 candidates successfully qualified for and passed the final evaluation - a fantastic achievement!

The final evaluation was held at Peek'n Peak Resort on Saturday, February 22nd. The 8 successful candidates were:

Jason Crosby - Holimont
Michael O'Shea - Holimont
Michelle MacDonald - Holiday Valley
Patrick Cluckey - Holiday Valley
Sarah Tobias - Holimont
Tom Moutsos - Peek'n Peak
Scott Welka - Holiday Valley
Zac Amigone - Holiday Valley

Throughout the clinics we had an average of 12 Trainer/Evaluators (TE's) supporting the training, and for the final evaluation, we had an impressive 21 TE's in attendance. A special acknowledgment goes to our two new Provisional TE's, Al Belovarac and Kate Tedesco, for their contributions to the program.

A huge thank you to all the candidates, Trainer/Evaluators, volunteer patients, and our hosting resorts for their dedication and efforts in making this year's program a success. Your hard work and commitment continue to strengthen the quality of our Senior OEC Program in the region.

Looking Ahead: Patrol Directors, please forward the names of any patrollers interested in enrolling in next year's WNY Senior OEC Program so we can add them to our email chain for updates and program details.

Additionally, we are currently working on setting a date for this year's TE Refresher—please keep an eye on your emails for more information as details become available.

Thank you all for your continued support!



Pictured from L-R: Jason Crosby, Michael O'Shea, Michelle MacDonald, Patrick Cluckey, Sarah Tobias, Tom Moutsos, Scott Welka, Zac Amigone.

WNY PATROLLER PASSES CERTIFIED EXAM

Congratulations to the WNY Region's newest Certified Patroller - RJ Bouchard. RJ is officially National Ski Patrol's 873rd Certified Patroller, a huge accomplishment that reflects his dedication, skill, and commitment to excellence on the mountain.

Additionally, a huge shout out to Certified Patroller, Greg Boberg, who was honored at this year's Certified event with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his unwavering dedication to the Certified Program.

The Certified Program is one of the most demanding training programs in ski patrol and is reserved for the best of the best. We couldn't be more proud of RJ and Greg for their achievements and contributions to the ski patrol community!

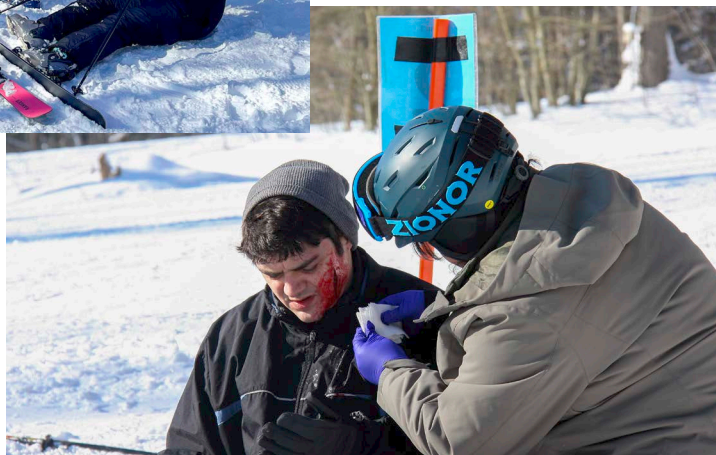
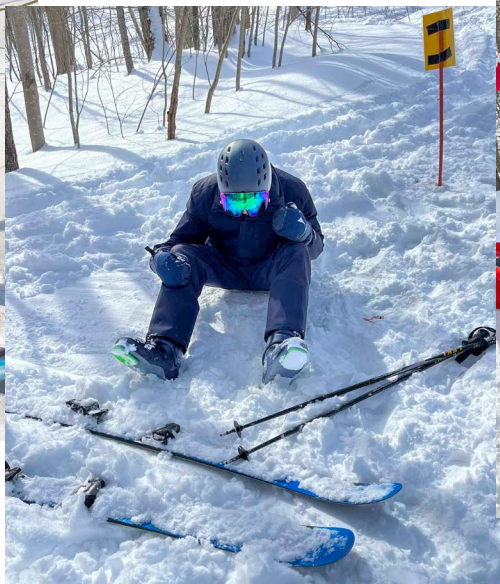


RJ Bouchard



Greg and Mary Lyn Boberg

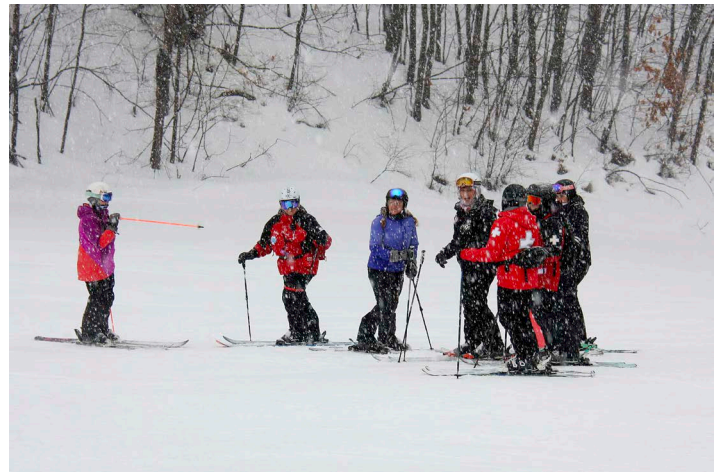
PHOTOS FROM THE SENIOR OEC EXAM



WOMEN'S TOBOGGAN ENHANCEMENT SEMINAR

The Western New York Region Women's Program, under the leadership of Barb Cosgrove from Buffalo Ski Center held their annual Women's Clinic on Sunday, February 16th at Buffalo Ski Center. Fifteen patrollers from five area Ski Patrols attended. The early morning rainstorms that passed through the area turned to snow

as the event started around 9:00am. Heavy snow continued throughout the day giving these patrollers the chance to work on their skiing and toboggan skills in some fresh powder. Instructors for the day were Kristen Russo; NSP National Women's Program Advisor, along with Mary Lyn Boberg and Jeanne Skotnicki from the Western New York Region's OET Staff.



MOULAGE LEARNING GROUP HOLDS FIRST CLINIC

The newly formed Western New York Moulage Learning Group held their first training clinic on Sunday, December 15th, 2024 at Buffalo Ski Center. Four patrollers from the WNY Region got together to work on enhancing their medical moulage skills. The morning was spent discussing various moulage topics and procedures. After lunch they worked on various types of burns including superficial, partial and full thickness. They then worked with scar wax to sculpt some lacerations and used make-up and fake blood to complete the look.

The WNY Region Moulage Learning Group was formed in 2024 with the goal of helping patrols enhance their skills in providing realistic looking wounds for their Outdoor Emergency Care scenarios by holding training clinics. If you would like to know more about this group or are interested in attending future clinics, please contact Al Quimby at alquimby@ptd.net.



CERTIFIED PROGRAM UPDATE

by Jay Biersbach

The Eastern Division Certified Ops manual was updated over the Summer and voted on and approved by membership in January. Updates were in effect for this year's exam. The Eastern Division Certified program conducted a pre-evaluation at Killington in Early February and incorporated a weekend long "Intro to Certified" course in conjunction with the one day pre-evaluation. Between NSP and PSPA, 11 candidates participated in the pre-evaluation and 6 candidates were successful. The program saw 2 new candidates added to the program this season, individuals who passed the pre-evaluation, as well as credentials. The Annual examination / meeting was held at Jay Peak on March 13-16. There were a total of 8 candidates at various stages of the program participating in this year's exam with

roughly 100 individuals at this year's event either testing, evaluating, or supporting the program. 4 new certified patrollers left the exam. RJ Bouchard, Certified patroller 873 from Holiday Valley is the most recent Certified Patroller. The Eastern Division Certified program is currently in the process of planning summer activities. The annual Bootcamp is currently scheduled for August 15-17 at Roundtop resort, in Pennsylvania. The 2025 Certified evaluation currently scheduled for March 19-22, 2026. The likely location is Sugarloaf Maine in conjunction with the 2026 YAP event. For any WNY patrollers who may be interested in this program, please contact Jay Biersbach directly so that he can help you navigate the program. jay@biersbach.com

GENESEE VALLEY REGION SETS DATE FOR ENHANCED PATROLLER SCHOOL

The Genesee Valley Region has set the date and location for their popular Enhanced Patroller School. It will be held September 12 - 14, 2025 at Swain Resort. This great Summer training event gives patrollers the opportunity to work on various patroller skills including many aspects of the OEC Program, Chairlift Evacuation techniques, Low Angle Rescue methods and rescue knot tying. The weekend culminates with a Simulated Mass Casualty Incident on Sunday morning that brings together all of the skills that were reviewed during the previous two days. Many of the skills that they cover are also a part of the NSP Certified Patroller Program.

Last year's event, also held at Swain Resort, was attended by 53 participants, and 12 gurus whose task was to help guide the various stations. These patrollers came from 23 different patrols, 12 different Regions, 9 different states and had a combined total of over 800 years of patrolling experience. Additionally, several outside agencies also participated in the Simulated Mass Casualty Incident on Sunday including:

Allegany County Office of Emergency Management
Alfred Station Fire Company
Canaseraga Fire Company
Dansville Ambulance Company
Medical Transport Service, Inc.
Canaseraga Ambulance
Fillmore Ambulance
Nunda Ambulance
Allegany County DC 4

Jeff Baker and Tom Wallin have been organizing these training events since 2011. Jim Nickerson and Joe Menichino have been right there planning and working since the

beginning as well. From year to year they bring in additional patrollers from around the Division to help act as guides and gurus because they have the expertise in the different modules they are planning for the given year. This school has always been a low pressure, hands on, try stuff, get your hands dirty (or bloody), ask questions type of event. They have always wanted it accessible to patrollers of any level, including Candidates, Basic Patrollers, Senior Candidates, Senior Patrollers, and Certified. They want everyone to have fun, learn stuff, and take ideas back to their home patrols. With patrollers coming from all around the Division, as you sit around the fire pit talking at night, you get the interchange of ideas and techniques from many other Patrollers.

Jeff Baker patrols at Bristol Mountain, Tom Wallin and Joe Menichino patrol at Swain Resort and Jim Nickerson is an Alumni Patroller from Hunt Hollow Resort.

To register for this event, go to the NSP Center for Learning and search for Patroller Enrichment Seminar - Genesee Valley - Swain Resort.



2024 Enhanced Patroller School Staff - from L-R; Jonathan Smith - Pittsford Ambulance, Glenn Becker - Bristol Patrol Director / Penfield Ambulance, Jeff Baker - Bristol Patrol / Pittsford Ambulance / Lifetime Certified, Jim Nickerson - Lifetime Certified, Joe Menichino - Swain & Bristol Patrol / Lifetime Certified, Jesse Merdak - Pittsford Ambulance, Tom Wallin - Swain Patrol / Lifetime Certified, Steve LaDue - Hunt Hollow Patrol / CHS Ambulance, Rob Armet - Windham Patrol - Lifetime Certified.

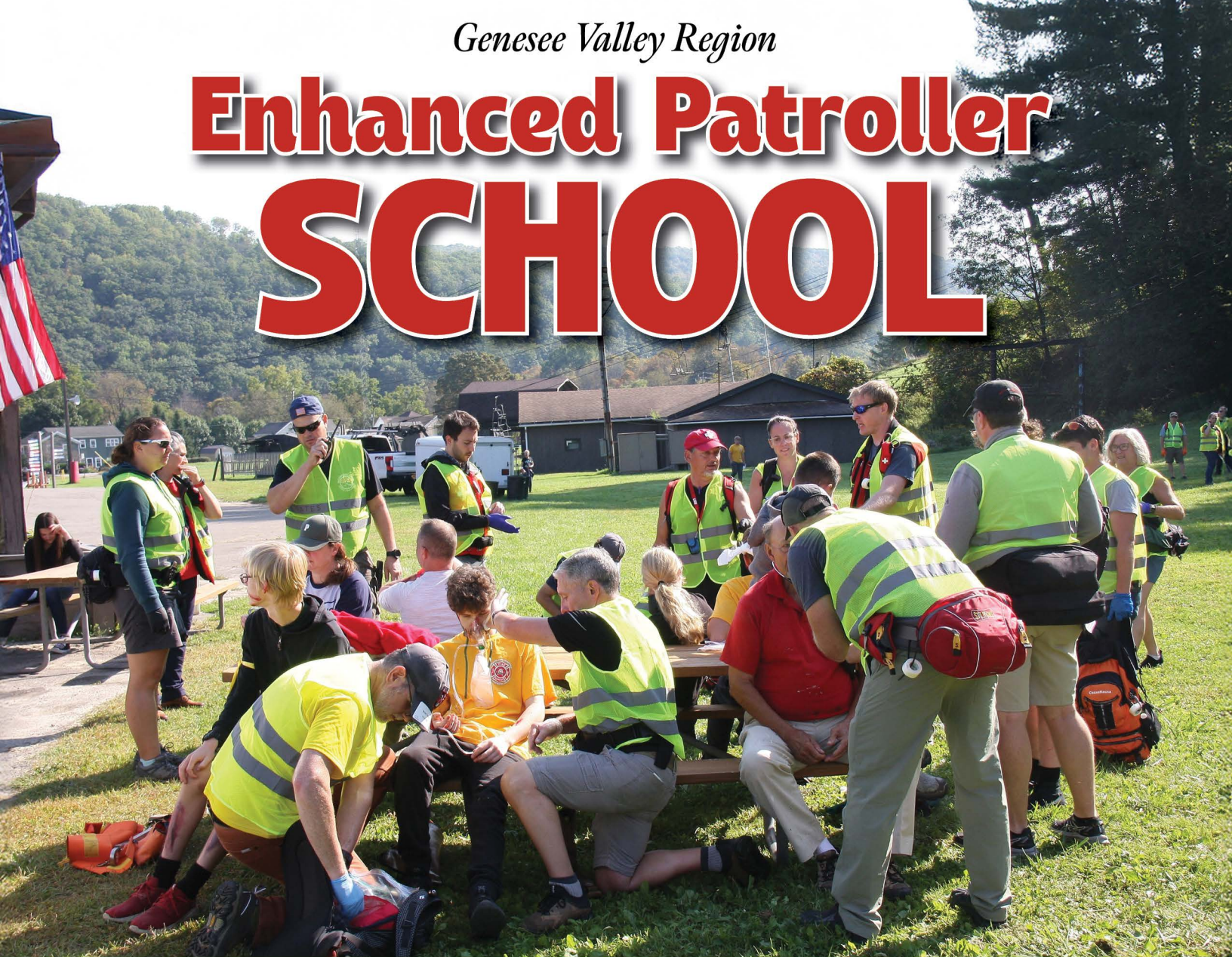


MORE PHOTOS FROM 2024 ENHANCED PATROLLER SCHOOL



Genesee Valley Region

Enhanced Patroller SCHOOL



September 12-14, 2025



Swain Resort

2275 County Road 24
Swain NY 14884



Register on the NSP Center For Learning
Search for:

Patroller Enrichment Seminar - Enhanced Patroller School hosted by Swain Ski Resort -Genesee Valley Region

WNY REGION ALUMNI DAY

The Western New York Region's National Ski Patrol Alumni Day was held this year on March 7th. It was a bluebird day for skiing with more than 50 alumni, friends, and family participating. Great stories were shared with old friends, we made some new ones, and were treated to a buffet style cookout meal.

We also took the opportunity during Alumni Day to present a 60-year Service Award to Joan Reynolds and a Distinguished Service Award to Eric Bowen:

Joan's award was a 60th year NSP service anniversary as of 2024. She started as a Holiday Valley Ski Patrol candidate in the 1964-65 season. Joan served as the HVSP Patrol Director for 8 seasons. She earned her Senior Alpine Patrolter status in 1967. She was awarded National Appointment #4591 in 1975. She moved to the NSP Alumni rank in 2017 after 53 seasons of active patrolling.

Eric's Award was for WNY Region Section Chief - 6 seasons, WNY Fundraising Chair - 10 seasons, WNY Awards Banquet Committee - 10 seasons, WNY OEC Candidate Class and CPR/AED instructor for 15 seasons, HVSP Assistant Patrol Director for 4 seasons, HVSP OEC and CPR/AED instructor for 15 seasons, HVSP Policy & Procedures Committee for 9 years and HVSP Awards Committee member for 4 seasons. Eric earned his Senior Alpine Patrolter in 2009. He was awarded National Appointment #11254 in 2012. He moved to the NSP Alumni ranks in 2024 after over 25 seasons of active patrolling.

A big "Thank You" to Holiday Valley Management, Ben Graham, Mike Augello, Dan Meess, and the Holiday Valley Ski Patrol for hosting the event. Management provided deeply discounted lift tickets and the patrol gave up the use of their family room for the day.



HOLIMONT BIKE PATROL

The Holimont Bike Patrol concluded its second full season as a registered NSP bike patrol. At Holimont, we have been part of the summer biking community for several years now. It started with patrolled cross country riding for our membership, followed by several Cyclocross and mountain bike race events that were patrolled by our in-house ski patrol staff. Four years ago we started full “lift service” down-hill and cross country mountain biking at Holimont. During the first two seasons we had a small but dedicated group of Holimont Ski Patrol that worked bike patrol from the standpoint of incident response, first aid and transport. We developed many protocols on our own, including our “Medlite” quad runner that is fully equipped for accident response and transport.

The average season for Holimont bike Park is approximately 60 days in length starting Memorial Day weekend and ending at the Ellicottville Fall Fest. Lifts are open and patrolled on-site Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer months and into the fall. In addition to recreational riding, the park features many competitive events including downhill and cross country mountain biking racing and other related athletic events such as trail running, uphill challenge, disc golf and more. All of these events are staffed by fully credentialed bike park patrol. It was two years ago that with the support and backing of Holimont that we were able to register officially as an NSP bike patrol. The requirement is that we have two named patrollers as “primary” for bike patrol; Dave Hawkes serves as Patrol Director and Mike Bailey from Holimont is second on the roster. In addition, there are approximately 20+ patrollers from the western New York region that serve as “secondary” for Holimont Bike Patrol. We have some darn good folks on staff that come from Holimont, Holiday Valley, Kissing Bridge, Buffalo Ski Center, Cockaigne and Allegheny Nordic.

This summer we sponsored a very well received NSP Safety Event organized by Ellen Conrad along with Doug



Pictured from L-R: Mike Bailey, Rick MacAvoy, Rick Chapman and Patrol Director Dave Hawkes

Levy; Safety Advisor for the Region. A two day safety event that was staffed by bike patrol and featured all kinds of good swag! This was done in conjunction with mountain bike racing as well as kids bike day, so the timing could not have been better.

As for the future of Holimont bike park patrol, our biggest challenge is recruiting sufficient staff to our ranks. The requirements are one full year complete as NSP patrol with current OEC. At present, there are no minimum days that need to be completed throughout the season, even riding a bike is not required as much of our response takes place from the Medlite or comes to us as a “walk-in” to the patrol room. There are incentives/benefits that involve bike park access and Holimont winter lift tickets available to bike patrollers. Please feel free to recommend people and/or reach out directly to Dave Hawkes if you might be interested or would like an overview tour this spring. dhawkes184@gmail.com

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Barb Priore

The last memorial service was held in the Crone Memorial Chapel at Kissing Bridge North on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 2:00 pm followed by a reception at the Glenwood Acres Ski Club. We added 18 patrollers to the memorial plaque, coming from Holiday Valley, Kissing Bridge, Bluemont, Glenwood Acres, Ski Wing/Wing Hollow, Peek’n Peak and Buffalo Ski Center, with dates of death ranging from January 2023 through August 2024.

The next Memorial Service will be held in 2 years approximately September 2026.

Patrol Directors are reminded to use the Memorial Honoree form to submit patrollers to ensure they will be accurately presented. This form can be downloaded from the WNY Region website.

NEW REGION REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED

The WNY Region recently held elections to select two patrollers to represent the WNY Region at the Eastern Division. Sadie Prescott was elected for her first term and will replace Kristin Russo, who has termed out. Jay Biersbach was elected to serve his second term. Thanks to Sadie and Jay for volunteering, and also to Kristen for her years of service in that role.



SAFETY EVENT AT HOLIMONT BIKE PARK

by Ellen Conrad

The WNY Region's safety tent and safety swag were displayed at the Holimont Bike Park during a Mountain Biking Camp for kids on August 10th and 11th. Stickers, neck gators and sunglasses were given out to the interested kids all expressing the idea of staying safe when doing recreation sports. Saturday was breezy and warm which just encouraged the kids to take more runs on the mountain biking trails. Sunday was rainy but still the bikers came to ride.



Butch MacQueen

The day drew about 180 bikers – many of them interested in safety swag and taking advantage of the free handouts.

Thank you to the Holimont staff, especially Dave Hawkes, Bill Stockwell, Charlie Coolidge and Dan O'Connor, for working with the NSP WNY Safety Staff in putting this event together.

The WNY Safety tent and safety swag are available to the WNY patrols for display during any event held by the patrol. If interested in using the safety tent and offering safety swag, please contact Doug Levy, WNY Safety Advisor at DLEVY@computers-cpu.com or (267) 994-8065.



Ellen Conrad

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE

by Alicia Furey

The WNY REGION held an Instructor Development Course on September 8, 2024 at Peek'n Peak Resort. Patrollers were required to complete the on-line portion (in the Center for Learning) before coming to the in-person portion of the class. During the in-person portion of the class, they did a very quick over view of some of the online information and then each of the patrollers gave their 15 minute lesson on a topic of their choice using the 6-pack method. The following patrollers successfully completed the course.



Em Allen - Peek'n Peak
Bryan Daniels - Cockaigne
Kristin DiJohn - Buffalo Ski Center
Nandor Forgach - Buffalo Ski Center
Ben Graham - Holiday Valley
Eric Montz - Buffalo Ski Center
Tom Moutsos - Peek'n Peak
Rich Randall - Buffalo Ski Center
Grace Wach - Buffalo Ski Center
Elisa Wasberg - Peek'n Peak

GIFT BASKET AUCTION AT THE WNY AWARDS BANQUET

The popular gift basket auction will once again be held at the WNY Awards banquet this year. Each patrol in the WNY Region has been asked to donate a gift basket. A Chinese Auction will be held at the banquet and attendees will have a chance to go home with some really nice gifts. Each attendee will receive two tickets with their banquet program and additional tickets can be purchased at the banquet. Proceeds will help offset the cost of the banquet.



WESTERN NEW YORK 2024-2025 REGIONAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, May 17 2025

Kloc's Grove
1245 Seneca Creek Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

WESTERN NEW YORK 2024-2025 REGIONAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Kloc's Grove

1245 Seneca Creek Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

Beer/Wine Reception: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Dinner: 6:30 PM
(Cash bar begins at 6:30 PM)
Awards following dinner



DINNER PRICES

Early Bird Discount ends February 28, 2025:

\$40.00/Person

March 1 - April 30: \$45.00/Person

Bonus!

\$5 Discount
for those who attended the
2024 Banquet.



REGISTER BY QR CODE
OR PRINTED FORM

Name(s): _____
Patrol: _____ Active _____ Alumni _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email (for confirmation): _____
Vegetarian Entree Requested & Quantity: _____

Make check payable to: **WNY Regional Ski Patrol**

Mail to: **Dan Meess • 5507 Country Club Ln • Hamburg, NY 14075**
Email: danmeess@gmail.com