

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Ski Patrol Initiates Trail Steward Program

Ken Kirk and Julie Hendricks introduced the ski patrol's new Trail Steward Program at the November meeting. The Trails and Patrol Committee would like to see patrol members "adopt" a trail as part of being involved in the ski patrol. This would encourage patrol members to get out and learn our trails, as well as provide invaluable trail maintenance oversight. A sign-up sheet was distributed at the meeting where members were able to select from 20 individual trail segments. There are still several sections remaining for those who were not able to sign-up at the meeting.

Trail stewards duties will be to visit their trail before the snow falls to determine if any work needs to be done to get the route in shape before the snow season. Stewards will also need to note any markers are missing or signs are needed. During the ski season the trail steward should ski the trail section at least once a month (*invite your friends!*). Stewards will also be part of an effort to document trail locations with a GPS system in order to create an accurate map of the ski trail system. Stewards will also be responsible for organizing trail maintenance, but the trail committee will also be able to help with these efforts. For more info, contact Julie Hendricks at (530) 644-6891.

Recent Trail & Hut Work

The Van Vleck Bunkhouse workday was held on a platinum day in the snow on Nov. 1. Five ski patrol members chopped and stowed a cord of wood for the winter users. Rich Platt won the "Best Dressed Woodchopper" award, while Mike Peart took the "Most Likely to Succeed" prize for running the hydraulic splitter while Mike Matus split his share by hand. In Shadow Hut-related news, a Forest Service geologist recently visited the future hut site with several patrol members to check out the potential for finding water at the site. The geologist thought that a water well for the site was possible.

Promoting Teamwork at CSUS' Challenge Center

The ski patrol will have a team building day at Cal State Sacramento's Peak Adventures Challenge Center on Nov. 22 (Go Hornets). This is part of an effort to promote teamwork and cooperation among ski patrol members, as well as providing an off-snow chance to us to get to know each other. The ski patrol will cover the cost of the event, which is for patrol members only. Contact Jeff Holm at (530) 622-2396 if you're interested in participating.

New Reporting System for Patrol Participation

Jennifer Ebert has agreed to serve as the patrol scribe and will be in charge of keeping track of participation records in patrol activities. It's very important that patrol event leaders get sign in event cards to Jennifer so that we can keep a record of your participation in the patrol event. Cards were distributed at the November general meeting. This is part of providing the Forest Service an accurate count on the number of hours that everyone is contributing to the ski patrol. This is also part of establishing requirements for participation in the pro-form program for next year. Patrol event leaders can pick up cards at the next general meeting.

A Friendly Reminder: Deadline for 2003-04 Dues is the Dec. General Meeting

PATROL CALENDAR

November

4 - General Meeting
9 - Carson Pass Work Day
22 - Team Building Session

December

2 - General Meeting
13 - On the hill refresher
27 - New Member Ski Day

January

3 - Winter Safety Training
6 - General Meeting
17 & 18 - Winter Open House
17 - New Member Ski Day
24-26 - SAREX training event
31 - Qualifying Ski Day

February

3 - General Meeting
14 - New Member Ski Day
28 - Avalanche Training

March

2 - General Meeting
9 - Race Meeting
13 - New Member Ski Day
16 - Race Meeting
20 - Echo-Kirkwood Race & Tour

EDNSP BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:

Jerry Plummer, President
Greg Stewart Vice President
Daniel Hansler, Treasurer
David Rolloff, Secretary

Board members:

Theresa Gilliland
Monte Hendricks
Jeff Holm
Mike Peart
Rich Platt

Winter Safety & Open House Events

Winter Safety Skills

The ski patrol will be presenting the training “Winter Safety Skills” on Saturday, **January 3, 2004** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at County Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court in Placerville. Presenters are needed to run sessions on clothing, weather, nutrition, hypothermia, group dynamics, packs & equipment, emergency shelters, and avalanche awareness. Contact Julie Hendricks at 530-644-6891 if you can help with a presentation, or with publicity for the event.

Loon Lake Chalet Winter Open House

The ski patrol is also sponsoring an open house event at the Loon Lake Chalet on **January 17 and 18, 2004**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The free public event will feature displays and demonstrations relating to winter safety and fun. Snow activities for kids are also part of the attraction. Help is needed, so your assistance with running a display, demonstration, or activity would be a great addition to this fun event. Contact Julie Hendricks at (530) 644-6891.



Race Committee: Help Us Find Sponsors!

The Race Committee met Nov. 11. They're recruiting sponsorships for the upcoming Echo to Kirkwood Ski Race, so could use your help with finding sponsors! Forms for sponsors can be downloaded from the ski patrol website. T-shirt designs are being accepted by the race committee, so if you have any ideas, contact Dave Boyer at (530) 647-5438.

Winter SAREX & EDNSP Event—Jan. 23-25, 2004

This season's winter SAREX training event is at the Blodgett Forest, UC Berkeley site up by Georgetown. Classes will be held on Saturday, and a winter survival session will be taught by our own Monte Hendricks. We need procurers/evaluators/safety officers from the ski patrollers group, while patrol candidates are welcome to participate as support volunteers and victims. Daniel Hansler will bring a sign-up form to the December patrol meeting. This will be a great opportunity to foster cooperation with El Dorado Sheriff Search and Rescue and the ski patrol.

Ski Hut History Subject of General Meeting Presentation

At the November meeting, Ski Patrol Forest Service Liaison Rich Platt facilitated a presentation on the history of ski huts. As part of the presentation, background was provided on the development of the hut system in our own Crystal Basin area, including future plans for a number of additions to the current hut system. Because of a desire to utilize the outstanding ski terrain in the area of Shadow Lake, the concept of Shadow Hut has been developed and taken on as one of the patrol's major project efforts. Dave Boyer spoke about the completed environmental analysis for the Shadow Hut project, indicating that we presently have a green light to go ahead with the Shadow Hut project. However, since we don't have the resources currently to build the Shadow Hut, the patrol is still in the initial fund raising so that construction can commence.

Mark Wegner and Grant Nelson have developed a set of hut plans that were presented at the meeting, with a 30" x 18" hut about the same size as Van Vleck Bunkhouse. The plans allow for any number of approaches that can be used for construction of the hut. For example, the hut could be constructed off-site in phases, and then hauled to the site after a foundation has been laid.

The purpose of presenting the Shadow Hut concept to the meeting was to hear from the patrol membership whether or not this is a project that the members support and deem worthy of pursuing. Daniel Hansler discussed the importance of showing a high level of participation (financial or *in kind* contributions) by ski patrol members in going to outside funding sources. Look for more information on Shadow Hut developments at this year's general meetings.

Got Something for the December Newsletter?

The ski patrol secretary *gratefully* accepts items for the monthly newsletter, including images taken on recent (or historic) ski patrol activities and events. If you have information or photos that you would like to have reviewed for inclusion in the newsletter, please give it to David Rolloff at the general meeting, or email him at rolloff@csus.edu.