

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Avalanche Training Coming Up

At the Feb. general meeting training, the training committee announced the schedule for this year's avalanche training. Classroom sessions will be held on Feb. 24th and 26th in the hearing room (where the general patrol meetings happen). These sessions are open to anyone. The field session will be held Sat. Feb. 28 is open only to members. If you're planning on attending the field session bring regular patrol pack. Contact Grant Nelson if you have questions about the event. The book *Snow Sense: A Guide to Evaluating Snow Avalanche Hazard* (by Jill Fredston, published by Alaska Mtn. Safety Center) is a great book to review before coming.

Loon Lake Open House a Big Success

The Ski Patrol had its annual open house event at the Loon Chalet during the



Plenty of Crystal Basin snow was on the ground for the Open House event.

weekend of January 16 & 17 from 9:00 - 3:00 pm. We had beautiful weather and great turn out by the public, as well as 34 patrol members participating. Several of the students from the patrol's Winter Safety training showed up on Saturday. Event organizer Julie Hendricks says "THANKS!" to each and every Patrol member that took part in the variety of activities that was available during the weekend. The activities included greeting the public,

being chief radio personnel at the Chalet, providing information hand-outs, clothing display, video & slide shows, teaching ski lessons, avalanche safety and beacon use, building emergency shelters, guiding snowshoe and ski tours, baking the yummy cookies, brownies and nut breads and prepping a "healthy" veggie tray. A big thanks goes to Supreme Ski Tech Mike Peart, for keeping all our skis and equipment "at the ready." Julie says, "Each Patrol member was awesome, helpful and just fun to be with for the weekend!"

SARX Training with Ski Patrol's Help

At the February patrol meeting, Daniel Hansler reported that the Patrol's help was greatly appreciated during the recent SARX training. Daniel said that he thought that both sides could learn from each other in the future, so encouraged the ski patrol to get involved with next year's event. As part of the event, participants had to work on foot, which was often a challenge for those who have been accustomed to travel by horse and vehicle. They were also challenged by large spans of control, with search groups numbering up to 18 people on a team. Training elements included tracking, land navigation, clue finding, packaging victims, doing medical triage and transport.

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PATROL CALENDAR

February

- 3 - General Meeting
- 6 - 8 Bear Valley Telemark Festival
- 14 - New Member Ski Day
- 24, 26, 28 - Avalanche Training

March

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

April

- 6 - General Meeting
- 10 - Ski Skills Training

May

- 1 - Elections & Final Season Meeting
- 18 - Board Meeting



Sightseeing with Ranger Platt during the Loon Lake Open House.

Keep Your Patrol Pack Ready:

A Number of Callouts & Near Rescues in January

At the February general patrol meeting, a number of patrol members spoke about recent callouts and near-rescues. Several patrol members reported on a callout the Saturday night before the February general meeting. The callout was to the West Bowl at Sierra at Tahoe and 13 ski patrol members turned out within an hour. In a near-rescue, several ski patrol members were on a near-rescue on the trail to Van Vleck Bunkhouse. They told about meeting different members of a group that had gotten separated, and how they coordinated getting the group back to the parking area. These incidents are a good reminder to keep your patrol pack at the ready. Our ability to turn out a significant number of people at a moment's notice really speaks to our high level of service commitment.

Echo-Kirkwood Race Coming Up

If you're planning on working as part of the race (*and your help is definitely needed*) you need to fill out the proper risk and liability form. Contact Walt Thompson if you haven't completed these forms. Anyone who can is requested to help with publicity. Take race information with you when you go out skiing; leave info where you think people will see it. Do lots of personal contact. We'll also take raffle prizes up to March 1st, so if you can get one of these donations give them a sponsor form. These don't have to be ski-related to be attractive prizes! 400 racers is the goal. At the general meeting in early February, the organizational structure of the race was discussed, and individual placements and jobs will soon be assigned.

Trail Steward Program Notes

At the February patrol meeting, the trail committee discussed the tasks that trail stewards should be working on. As part of this discussion, Jerry Plummer gave a presentation in which he showed the trails that have been documented with GPS waypoints, many of which have been uploaded onto the ski patrol website. This is an ongoing project that the ski patrol is working on. A number of other trail creation projects are also part of the trail committee's work. The trail presentation instructed stewards interested in putting diamonds up on their trail sections to be sure to go out with someone who has marked a trail previously before making decisions about where to place diamond markers. Materials will be provided by the Forest Service, so be sure to contact your respective ranger district if you need materials. Otherwise contact Ken Kirk if you have questions about trail steward activities.

Be Sure to Complete a New OES Form New "Office

of Emergency Service forms" have been given to the patrol secretary, so be sure you have a new OES form filled out so you're covered by state workmen's comp in case you are injured as part of a ski patrol activity. See David Rolloff at the March patrol meeting if you have not updated your form, or contact him at rolloff@csus.edu and he can put one in the mail to you.

Get Your Info in the Next Newsletter

The patrol secretary *gratefully* accepts information for the monthly newsletter. Particularly if you're an event or committee leader, it's more helpful to get written info so your event will be publicized accurately. Material is collected for a week after the monthly general meeting for inclusion in the newsletter. If you have info about upcoming ski patrol events, email your info to David at rolloff@csus.edu, or give it to him at the next general meeting, or call 916-278-5020.

EDNSP BOARD MEMBERS

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

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