

El Dorado Nordic Ski Patrol

Volume 1, Issue 10

April 2007

Nominations For Next Season's Patrol Officers & Board of Directors

Officers

- President: Jerry Plummer
- V.P.: Monte Hendricks
- Secretary: Julie Hendricks
- Treasurer: Mark Stanley
- Director: Cathy Rumble
- Director: Paul Stover
- Director: Jeanne Reed
- Director: Ken Kirk

Nominations for next years slate of officers and Directors were taken at our April meeting.

- President: Monte Hendricks
- Vice Pres.: Rich Platt
- Secretary: Julie Hendricks
- Treasurer: Mark Stanley
- Directors: John Stroud, Jeff Gitschell, Ken Kirk, Rob Blumenthal (4 Directors serve)



We thank all these folks for their dedication and willingness to serve! If you would be interested in running and want to add your name to the list, please let Secretary Julie know. Our annual election is held at our

Help continue our proud American Tradition! Vote at our end of the year party!

end of the year party in May. Please find information in this newsletter.

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A Note From Our Charter Member Rich Platt

Upon his retirement after serving 25 years as our liaison with the USFS, Rich sent a note to the Board. We feel it appropriate to share his thoughts with our membership.

To EDNSP Board:

First, I would like to say what a rewarding experience it has been to serve as the Forest Service liaison for nearly 25 years. The time spent working with the Patrol to build one of the best and most productive volunteer organizations

in the Forest Service has been a highlight of my career. I am thankful that I had a role in our success.

What has set the Patrol apart from other volunteer groups is that EDNSP was established with a unique mission to provide professional assistance to the Forest Service to help foster safe winter recreation on the Eldorado N.F. In 1982, I prepared an action plan with the assistance of several of the

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Continued from page 1 founding members, to set up the purpose for the Patrol and requirements for membership. The purpose was clearly stated "Provide service to both the Forest Service and the public engaged in winter recreation activities". The purpose included; public education, maintenance of trails and facilities, emergency assistance, monitoring, collecting data, making recommendations for improving winter facilities and safety of the visiting public. Patrolling was the primary means for providing this service. Over the years the Patrol has grown and membership changed, but the one thing that has remained the same is the need to maintain the basic principles that established the EDNSP 25 years ago. I commend the board for working closely with the Forest Service when it came time to update the original action plan and volunteer agreement. The new agreement reemphasizes the need for the Patrol and articulates the mission and more clearly defines the original founding principles.

I have heard from some members that since the Patrol is no longer involved in Sheriff's Department SAR callouts and the Echo to Kirkwood Race, that being a member no longer holds interest for them. I encourage our membership to read the original documents that formed the patrol which are attached. Clearly SAR was never the EDNSP's primary mission. Prevention was clearly the goal. Members needed to be highly qualified to function as patrolers, skilled in backcountry travel, knowledgeable about winter safety and able and willing to share that knowledge with the public encountered in the field. We were all proud that through hard work and training we were able to gain these skills and share them with others.

Competency in SAR and providing medical aid was vital. Patrollers are most often the ones that receive the initial report of an incident or are first on the scene as first responders. This has not changed. What has changed is that the Sheriff, over the past few years, has taken on a more active role in SAR management, fulfilling their responsibility to perform this function. The Forest Service's role has remained the same as one of support. As you are aware, the role of the Patrol in SAR has been discussed in great detail with the Sheriff's Dept. and they have made it clear that California Office of Emergency Services (OES) will not recognize the Pa-

trol as an outside resource as they have in years past. For those members of the Patrol who would like to continue their involvement in extended SAR missions the Sheriff' would benefit greatly from your knowledge and expertise. The public needs your service, with that said, they also need EDNSP to do its job of prevention by providing patrolling and public education so people are less likely to become victims by being lost or injured. This is what the Patrol does best.

I have been involved with the Echo-Kirkwood race, either as a participant or in its organization since 1978, and it has been an outstanding event. The EDNSP's initial involvement was to help provide race course patrol and safety, and by doing so it served EDNSP's purpose by offering an excellent training opportunity to its members. This is the sole reason the Forest Service supported the Patrol's participation in this event and authorized the use of Forest Service radios and repeaters. When Kirkwood Touring Center decided it was no longer in their best interest to continue the Race, they offered it to the Patrol as a fund raising event and a way to continue the tradition. The decision to take on the Race came after much debate among EDNSP members and the Race continued in excellent fashion under the direction of the Patrol.

As years passed, the race started to take on a life of its own and became the main focus of the Patrol's existence. New members joined thinking that the race was the primary reason for the Patrol. Anyone who has been involved in the race knows that an inordinate amount of time was required to guarantee success come race day. Unfortunately, the primary mission of the Patrol became less significant, as the race took on greater importance for why people were joining and volunteering their time. Nowhere is the E-K mentioned in the original Forest Service Volunteer Agreement, original Action Plan, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, or current Operations Plan and Volunteer Agreement. I support the Patrol participating in fund raising events but it is not EDNSP's primary function.

Whether members want to accept it or not, the Patrol was established to provide assistance to the Forest Service and to help it fulfill the Forest Service mission of "Caring for the

Continued from page 2 *Land and Serving the Public.*"

Some members have suggested that they no longer support this mission or the relationship the Patrol has with the Forest Service. If this is the case then I strongly suggest the Patrol terminate its agreement with the Forest Service and become a ski club. This change would be a very sad day indeed for me and for the past and present members who put their heart and soul into creating this outstanding organization with its history of public service.

I'm excited about the future and the enthusiasm I see in some of our new members. We need to cultivate their energy to help revitalize our organization and further advance our tradition of public service. The personal benefits are many which include excellent training, opportunities to enjoy the finest huts and backcountry trails in the Sierras, sharing your expertise and knowledge of safe winter travel with the public, opportunities to assist skiers while patrolling and most important fostering the sport you love. Skiing takes on a whole new dimension when you ski with the purpose to serve others. Remember our enthusiasm is contagious.

Rich Platt,
Senior Patroller

GPS Tracking of Ski Trails

Ron Hancock has suggested and requested that the Patrol GPS the ski trails so that they could be put into the Forest's Data Base. This needs to be done with USFS equipment so the data is properly formatted and to USFS standards. He has offered to provide a training for any members that would like to learn to use the required equipment so that this coming winter (2007/08) the trails could be done! Members that indicated an interest in the training over the summer included: Jim Cahill, Rich Platt, Monte Hendricks, and Mickey Kaiserman. Please contact Julie if you would like to be included! Ron will organize and set up a training date.

Congratulations!

to Jeff Marsolais for his new position as Forest Recreation Officer on the Inyo National Forest. It looks like Jeff, Jennifer, and Emily will be leaving us. We wish them happy trails and our best!

Member Ski Day

On March 24th Paul Stover led the member ski day and they headed off to Echo Lakes and a good time was had by all! Thanks for organizing this Paul!

Echo to Kirkwood

Jim Cahill would like to see the Race return and has volunteered to be CO- Race Director if anybody else is willing to be the other CO-director. Please contact Jim if you are that "anybody".

May Meeting

Our end of the year meeting will be on Friday, May 4th. We are working on getting use of the SAR Lodge and will have a Lasagna feed. Our alternate plan is the Golden Palace (Chinese restaurant) We will put out a general e-mail with place and times as plans are finalized. Please RSVP to Julie if you and guests are planning to attend. We need a head count!

"Skiing takes on a whole new dimension when you ski with the purpose to serve others." Rich Platt

Proform

Susan Minneman has gotten the following companies to offer proform for next season. Susan will take orders Sept/Oct! The companies include:

- Wasatch,
- Mountain Gear for avalanche beacons
- Patagonia
- Mountain Hardware
- Lifelink

Ski Patrol Hats Available

We now have ball caps with the ski patrol logo available for \$10 (cost) to patrol members. You have a choice of gray or black. You can get these from Julie, our multi-tasking secretary!

Next Board Meeting will be Tues. April 17th at Building A @ 7 PM



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[WWW.EDNSP.
ORG](http://WWW.EDNSP.ORG)

The El Dorado Nordic Ski Patrol was started during the winter of 1982 by a small group of cross country skiers working as volunteers for the US Forest Service. EDNSP has evolved into a non-profit corporation that works as a volunteer group with the Eldorado National Forest. The Patrol's primary objective is public service and education associated with winter mountain recreation.

EDNSP monthly meetings are the FIRST Tuesday of every month from September to April at 7 PM in the hearing room of Building C, in the EL Dorado Government Complex located on Fair Lane in Placerville.

Dues are \$25 annually with membership subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Ball caps are \$10 after you join, \$1500 each for non-members.

