

SKI PATROL NEWSLETTER

2004-05 Patrol Calendar Set

At the first season meeting of the ski patrol, Jeff Holm presented the current patrol schedule. For the 2 weeknight map and compass sessions on September 21 and 23, plan on 3 hours starting at 6:30 p.m. The Saturday session will be all day. Note that this training is required for advancement to patroller status. Contact Jon Stillwell to sign up for the training. Note that E2K is early this year (March 12). At the meeting it was suggested that we have the end of season meeting on a Friday night. Cathy Rumble has done some research on a First Responder course for those who need this certification. Based on her research, she found that it would be best to have this in November. If you're interested in First Responder certification, contact Cathy.

Do You Know Potential Donors?

Shadow Hut Fundraising at Critical Point

At the September patrol meeting, Daniel Hansler indicated that we need to have \$50,000 – \$75,000 by February to move ahead with construction of Shadow Hut. We have the money for the hut foundation, so now we need funds for the building itself. Plans are to build the foundation in summer 2005, providing we can raise the 50-75G. Monte has put together an initial summary of the benefits of the hut and information that might be of interest to a prospective donor. **From the patrol members, Daniel needs 85 “suspects,” or names of individuals who could write a check for \$1,000.** Equestrians, mountain bikers, or any person who simply cares about the area and wants to do something nice are good people to contact. Call or email Daniel if you have names of people who might be potential donors.

Patrol Strategic Planning

Vision Meeting Sept. 18

At the September meeting of the patrol, President Jerry reported on the report prepared by Beth Kivel summarizing the main points of the strategic planning meeting in June, as well as her responses to broader issues of the organization. She particularly recommended that we take a look at the broader patrol mission and where we want the organization to go. Beth suggested this task be conducted by a small group composed of both new and old members. A meeting for generating ideas about the patrol's future has been set for Sept. 18, location TBA (likely up in the Crystal Basin). Beth also recommended that the patrol review our relationship with the Forest Service and consider how our activities contribute to the identity of the ski patrol. Contact Jerry if you're interested in attending the meeting on Sept. 18.

A Visit from Dave Beck

A ski community treasure visited the ski patrol at the September meeting. Dave Beck, author of the classic 1972 book *Ski Tours in California*, showed slides and talked about avalanche forecasting in the Sierra. His advice for the members of the ski patrol? “You must have a sense of the snow,” he cautioned. Dave told of his work with the *Friends of the Sierra Avalanche Center*, and encouraged the ski patrol to work closely with east-side backcountry folks to ensure rescue readiness in the Sierra backcountry.

PATROL CALENDAR

September

- 7 - General Meeting
- 14 - Race Committee Meeting
- 21 - Board Meeting
- 21, 23, & 25 - Map & Compass Training

October

- 5 - General Meeting
- 9 - Robbs Hut Workday
- 19 - Board Meeting

November

- 2 - General Meeting
- 4 & 6 - GPS Training
- 16 - Board Meeting

December

- 7 - General Meeting
- 11 - On the Hill Refresher
- 21 - Board Meeting

January

- 4 - General Meeting
- 8 - Winter Safety Class
- 15 & 16 - Loon Chalet Open House
- 15 - Winter Overnight
- 18 - Board Meeting
- 29 - Qualifying Ski Day

February

- 1 - General Meeting
- 5 - Mountaineering Training
- 15 - Board Meeting
- 19 - Ski Skills Training
- 22 - Race Meeting

March

- 1 - Race Meeting
- 8 - Race Meeting
- 9 & 10 - Race Pack-up and pack in
- 12 - Echo-Kirkwood Race & Tour

Trail Sponsors: Hike before the snow flies!

At the September patrol meeting, Monte Hendricks reported on one of the new programs the patrol started last year. The trail stewardship program had a successful first year with 23 blue diamond trails adopted by individual members of the ski patrol. The trail committee asks that trail sponsors to get out and walk your trail without snow on it to see if there is work that needs to be done before the snow flies. The trail committee is currently putting together a work schedule for the season. If you see need for any additional signs to help the public find their way, please make note of this and tell the trails committee. One of the offshoots of the first season was that GPS tracks were documented for some of the trail system. George Doty deserves a lot of credit for this major public information effort that is available on the patrol website.



Ski Patrol's Connection with the Forest Service

At the September meeting, Rich Platt (ski patrol liaison to the Forest Service) gave a summary the patrol's historic relationship with the agency. Originally the patrol was affiliated with the National Ski Patrol, but the focus on the trainings was focused on credentialing for patrol work at alpine ski areas. While this was good background, patrol members decided to withdraw from the national ski patrol, become incorporated, and affiliate with the Forest Service. While it has evolved over the years, the patrol has used the training format of the national ski patrol. The agreement between the patrol and the Forest Service is approved by the Forest Supervisor and has been renewed several times. The agreement is about providing services to the public—there are certain things the patrol is directed to do: conduct public education and winter safety, help with the winter trail system (designing and marking), maintaining the hut system, and supporting search & rescue services with the county sheriff's department. As an incorporated organization, the patrol can hold races and fund raise, and help out with other community events (e.g. Run on the Sly). The patrol has gone through a number of transitions throughout the years, so we're looking forward to another 20 years after this current phase of review of our mission.

E2K Race Meeting Sept. 14

Paul Stover reported that the next E2K race meeting is currently scheduled for Sept. 14 at Roundtable Pizza in Placerville. If anyone wants to ask for the latest notes on things that race committee has been talking about, contact Paul Stover for more information. Currently the committee is investigating insurance options for this year's race.

Patrol Supports *Run on the Sly*

At the September patrol meeting, Paul Stover reported on the Run on the Sly event which happened on September 5. Why do we help with this ultra marathon event? It's a fundraiser for the Eldorado County Search and Rescue that we've been invited to help out with. What this does is that it allows us to help them, and provides another opportunity for us to work with some of their people. This year, Paul took over the EDNSP tasks for Mike Matus, who has worked the event on behalf of the ski patrol for a number of years. Paul gave a big thank you for everyone who helped out. The event had 280 participants.

Hut & Chalet News

October 9 is the first workday scheduled for Robbs Hut. Contact Monte if you're interested in participating. At the September general meeting, it was announced that Melanie Keir will be the snow ranger at Loon Lake Chalet this winter, so be sure to introduce yourself to Melanie. A CSUS student, Melanie worked as a summer intern with Pacific Ranger District up in the Crystal Basin and is a great new asset to the winter staff of the Forest Service.



Melanie Keir, this season's Loon Lake Chalet Winter Ranger

Get Your Info in Next Newsletter

The patrol secretary *gratefully* accepts information for the monthly newsletter. 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 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 meeting.