



***Maine Region Director's Report
John Kane***

2010 - 2011

It's here! The 5th edition is finally in play. As mentioned in last year's meetings there were a lot of unknowns for roll out dates, implementation and how it will affect our patrolling members in the Maine Region. We have only had a few months to test drive this vehicle of information. The 5th edition sports a lot of very good thought on behalf of NSP patrollers system wide, but the real pulse of the transition from the 4th edition to the 5th is still being assessed. Many thanks to Jonnathan Busko, MD, (Hermon Mtn Patroller and Medical Officer for the Maine Region) for his contribution in authoring one of the chapters in the new book. This was a monumental task and he deserves a lot of credit for his time and thoughtful contribution to the 5th edition. I thank you for your service.

This roll out has captivated much of the season and our OEC Administrator, the region OEC IT and training staff have dedicated a large portion of their summer to get this whole thing into perspective so that we can deliver a quality and consistent refresher for all patrollers at all mountains in the Maine Region. So I would ask that you be patient, work through the changes and allow the OEC team to help you with your refreshers this year. All instructors must go through a series of check offs before they can teach this new edition for their respective upcoming refreshers. Many thanks to Dan Pascucci for jumping on these changes early in June where he had over 30 dedicated staff show up to be trained and ready for service. So please, PLEASE resource Dan and his team to help you set up your refreshers. It is critical to do this by the book. Look to the website www.maineregionnsp.org for all dates and information with regards to the 5th edition.

This is a good time for you to check your NSP profile at the National Ski Patrol headquarters in Lakewood, CO, by going to the Maine Region website, click on National Ski Patrol and sign on with your password ready. Update any and all old information (i.e., new Cell phone numbers, addresses and other pertinent information).

Even with all of the 5th edition hype, we managed to stay the course with dedicated staff delivering programs region wide for another successful and productive season. We have accomplished many of the goals we set out to do with a positive impact for our patrols and members region wide. We were able to visit 9 of 14 ski areas this past season with Ski and Toboggan clinics, OEC clinics, Intro to Certified clinics and my favorite - award banquets. We hosted two evaluations with the S&T held at Sunday River and the OEC EMM held at Saddleback. The Student Seminar otherwise known as Young Adult Program (YAP) at Sugarloaf. The Student (YAP) program also had an excellent year with Shawnee Peak and Sugarloaf sending a combined (11) students to the competition.

In addition to getting around to many of the patrol refreshers, there was one event I just had to attend. It was the MCI Disaster Drill held at Sugarloaf on December 7th. Earl Connor a patroller at Sugarloaf was asked to set up, coordinate and oversee the many government agencies that would participate in a 2 chair derailment scenario on this day. It was a year in the making. I was able to participate, observe and attend the after action meeting at the end of the day. It was a year in the making that took just under 3 hours to set up the MCI, dispatch all of the rescue resources including but not limited to, FEMA, MEMA, Local Police and Fire Departments, resort security, local and regional hospitals, patrollers from all over the region helping to set up and yes the Sugarloaf patrollers who knew nothing about the scenarios in advance. The real test was to see how each department and agency communicated, responded and reacted to work as one to assess and allocate resources quickly and appropriately. The whole event was a tremendous success. Special thanks to the NSP ME Region patrols and individual patrols that helped to set up the scenarios, being patients and to those cold chairlift riders. A special thanks to Earl Connor for his outstanding commitment, leadership and direction of such a major undertaking. Your performance truly underscores the values of what a patroller can be with proper training and system support. The event made the National Ski Patrol Magazine. If you have your magazine lying around somewhere and don't remember seeing this article, go find it and check it out.

I attended and help facilitate another well-attended Intro to Certified program this year at Sunday River. The interest keeps growing because the program is reaching people on a more personal level than in years passed. Please continue to talk this program up. It was the largest event attended to date.

The S&T Program was stronger this year than the year before. Jim Wackell has carefully and successfully pushed to increase and enhance the program with Snowboarders and Telemark Instructors to help demonstrate the senior element of each discipline. We have been strong in the skiing department, but over the years we have seen steady growth in attendance with more participants coming to be evaluated on snowboard and telemark equipment. So, let your fellow patrollers know that we have the right people for the right job. Thanks to Jim and his team of examiners that make the long trips to all corners of the region to insure that all members have an opportunity to discover new ways make a turn. Congratulations to the successful candidates!

The EMM once again proved to be successful. The Maine Region is setting the standards for quality exam environments. The testing environment last year at Saddleback was a soaker to put it mildly. While I was not there to partake in the exam, the examiners and candidates stood up to the wind soaked downpour and saw it through. But the real hero's were the patients whose patience were tested, scenario after scenario all day long. There are no amount THANK YOU's that can be offered with regard to your sacrifice and performance the whole day through. It is because of this group (*the victim squad*) we are able to deliver the consistency from one scenario to the next for the candidates to perform. Kudos to Paul and his team for pulling off another great event. Bob, Jeff, Dan and others kept every moving along but consistent in all delivery phases. Excellent work by all!

I attended the ED Student (YAP) Seminar representing the Maine Region at the ED BOD Meeting at Sugarloaf in Carrabassett, ME. I was an S&T examiner for the event. This provided me a front row seat to see our ME students perform at their very best. Hats off to Doug Wall and the rest of the training team at Shawnee Peak for their careful handling and positive direction we are heading with this program. We had (2) student patrollers from Sugarloaf who attended and demonstrated performance excellence in several categories and placed high in the standings. The Maine Region is very proud of our student performances. We appreciate their commitment and dedication to training for all around service excellence for their respective mountains and for themselves. Keep up the great work. On a related note, I want to especially thank Jim Viehl for his years of guidance and service on behalf of the Maine Region Student Program. He had to step down from the Student Advisors position for personal reasons, but is still supporting the program when he can.

I attended the Certified Program held at Gore Mtn and served as an S&T examiner as well as for Low Angle Rescue, Lift Evacuation and the Management interviews. We had 4 members from the Maine Region attend the exam as candidates. They are as follows:

- Mami Iwamoto, Sunday River
- Scott Krall, Sunday River
- David Lemieux, Sunday River

- Wayne Arsenault, Saddleback had a bye this year due to an injury.

Certified Patrollers who helped to examine at the event:

- John Kane, Mt. Abram
- Marc LeBlond, Sunday River
- Jim Wackel, Sunday River
- Tim Politis, Shawnee Peak

Remember our goal is to enroll one member per year in the program? I think we will have at least two more next year, making a total of 6 attending from Maine. So we are ahead of our goal which is great! If you are interested in learning new things and improving your patrolling skills to be the very best you can be for your patrol see me for specific information.

This is an election year for the position of Region Director. If you like what is happening in the Maine Region and the direction it is heading I would be happy and proud to serve you for my 3rd and final term. Our by laws allows a patroller to serve only 3 consecutive terms as RD. Should I have your confidence to be voted in as my final term as RD, I will commit to you the same focus and dedication for expanding program services to all patrols who call for it; to see that the region is financially strong, to see that every patroller feels a sense of commitment from their region and finally, that every patroller feels a real sense of value for service performance that outperforms the value of region dues. Having said that, I would ask you to check with every patroller that you know that has interest in serving on the region staff in any capacity up to and including the position of Region Director. It is a rewarding and fulfilling experience to serve your fellow patrollers

Lastly, I want thank my entire staff for the amazing work they do on behalf of the patrollers of the Maine Region. Each program advisor will be present their report for your review and comments at the meeting. We will all post all reports to the website for those not able to make the meeting shortly thereafter.

With best regards;

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