

Eleanor B. Jessum

Have you ever skied or ridden a snowboard, gone tubing, or visited an Eastern Pennsylvania winter sports area? If so, your visit was a lot safer and more enjoyable as a result of the work of Ellie Jessum and her colleagues in the National Ski Patrol!

Eleanor B. Jessum joined the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. (NSP) in 1963 and has patrolled every year since then! Ellie started the Spring Mountain, PA Ski Patrol in 1963 and served as that organization's first Patrol Director. She started the Doe Mountain, PA (now Bear Creek) Ski Patrol and served as the first Patrol Leader, as well. Ellie also served as a paid patroller and Manager and then as a patrol officer at Pennsylvania's Hahn Mountain. She also served as the President of the Boyertown Ski Club as well as an officer of the Spring Mountain Ski Club.

Ellie retired from active patrol duty in 2003 while serving at Spring Mountain, after 41 years of continuous service. She did not really retire, however, as she continues as an active Courtesy Patroller and NSP Alumni at Spring Mountain. Whether it is providing numbered incident forms and mailing information, registering patrollers for continuing education programs, or helping resort guests, Ellie is always there, ready and willing to help.

Ellie was, and continues to be, highly regarded within the National Ski Patrol, including the local patrol, section, region, division, and national levels. She was an Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) first aid instructor and for many years served as the instructor of record for classes of new patrollers. She also served for numerous years as a senior level OEC trainer and evaluator. She administered various first aid clinics for the region, responsible for training the other region first aid instructors, which prepared them for their annual region teaching responsibilities. Ellie also helped create and for a number of years instructed at the ski patroller school at Killington, VT Ski Area.

Since 1970, Ellie has served as the Spring Mountain, Eastern PA Region, and Eastern Division NSP Historian. She continues in those roles as an active Alumni.

For many years Ellie ran the Eastern Division traveling store, which sold many apparel and ski patrol related items, at all division events. If the NSP was there, so was Ellie, including numerous ski shows in addition to the NSP activities. Ellie also

continues her involvement in the winter sports arena as a fourteen year employee of Salter's Ski Shop in Eagleville, PA.

Ellie has received many Certificates of Appreciation and other awards, including the NSP Distinguished Service Award and Leadership Commendation Appointment Award, which recognize her service at the national level of the National Ski Patrol.



Frank "Doc" Lavin

Frank is a ski legend throughout Pennsylvania, as a result of his work with the Special Olympics. He grew up in the Endless Mountain region, Crystal Lake, and at an early age discovered a passion for skiing, which has extended over five decades.

After graduating from college, Frank accepted a position as a Secondary Special Education teacher at Blue Ridge High School in New Milford, PA. As a young educator, Frank realized that children and adults with special needs played a very limited active role in life; these special people just stood on the sidelines. He realized that a program of sports training and athletic competition for individuals of all levels of ability could help involve his special people and make them more active participants in many areas of life skills. In 1975, Frank introduced Area P Special Olympics at Elk Mountain Ski Center in Uniondale, Pa. The program is accredited through Special Olympics International and Special Olympics Pennsylvania. At its inception the Program had only six athletes. Now the program involves over 2,600 athletes in nineteen different sports. The athletes represent the five counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Lackawanna, Pike, Wayne, Susquehanna and Wyoming.

Frank's local Ski Program is considered to be the largest ski program in the world with many athletes from scores of participating school districts, group homes and other residential and non-residential agencies participating. The growth of Area P has been phenomenal! Area resorts serve 1,000 athletes per week.

Each year in January, Area P conducts the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Eastern Winter Sectionals, which will bring athletes from all NE Pennsylvania Programs to local winter resorts. In addition, the Annual Cassaro/Davis Memorial Ski Race, which is well known nationally as a premier invitational ski race, will be held to honor the memory of two bright and promising young men, Pat and Jeff, who live in the hearts of everyone involved in the Special Olympic program.

In preparation for the week of local Winter Games, Mr. Lavin meets with representatives from the several resorts administrative staff, ski patrol, restaurant staff, rental staff, school and agencies' ski coordinators, and numerous volunteers who donate their time as gatekeepers, statisticians, intercom system operators, to name a few! He also arranges for on-site medical services he maintains and reorders stock for the various types of winter equipment needed such as clothing, helmets, and ski equipment.

To start the annual event, the official opening ceremonies kick-off with the Parade of Champions, the Special Olympic athletes,

music by a local high school band, the lighting of the Special Olympics Torch, and the Special Olympics Oath, which is administered to all participants. Approximately 350 Special Olympians compete in the following categories: advanced, intermediate, novice skiers and guide athletes. All Area P participating athletes are presented with gold, silver & bronze medals, as well as trophies in honor of their accomplishments. Additional activities continue throughout the week such as pizza parties, disk jockey dances, as well as winter recreational sports. A luncheon for athletes and guests follows the conclusion of the program. After the Area P competition is concluded, athletes and coaches are selected to represent Area P at the SOPA Winter Games, which are held each year near Johnstown, PA.

Raising funds for his programs is another area in which Frank excels. Because the Special Olympics are a non-profit organization with no government funding, Frank dedicates much of his time raising funds in the local communities. Since the Area P Special Olympic program is well known, the program exists through the kindness, generosity, mercy and good will of individuals, as well as service organizations. Frank and Committee members organize fundraising events such as golf tournaments, car raffles, dinner dances, New York City trips, ski-a-thons, and raffles.



Herman Kress Dupre

In his 40 years at the head of Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Herman Kress Dupre transformed a tiny ski area with two rope tows on his parents' property into an internationally known, year-round 5000 acre resort in a setting of beautiful hills, lakes, hiking, biking, and riding trails, reminiscent of the Bavaria of his immigrant mother and father. Today, Seven Springs is one of America's busiest ski resorts.

As CEO of the resort, Mr. Dupre planned and implemented the infrastructure for the community of Seven Springs, with its own municipal water system, airport, golf course, condominium complexes, ski lodges, and high rise luxury hotel with every conceivable guest amenity and activity. He was responsible for the design and construction of the many log-and-stone structures located around the resort.

Situated in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania, Seven Springs is the largest employer in the county. "Seven Springs exists," says its mission statement, "to provide relaxing, invigorating, family oriented recreation for its guests; to provide wholesome, rewarding long-term employment for its people; and to provide vitality to the community of which it is a part."

Known as "the father of snowmaking," Mr. Dupre holds 34 U.S. patents for the HKD snowmaking system. He is the chief engineer for Snow Economics, Inc. and his system is now sold worldwide. His new Backyard Blizzard home system based on the HKD concept became available in the winter of 2000. Without the benefit of his work, many winter resorts throughout the world would not have the snowmaking capability they utilize today!

Mr. Dupre began his tenure as CEO of Seven Springs in 1955, when, as a young lieutenant aboard a U.S. Coast Guard Cutter in Alaska, he was called home due to the death of his father. At the age of 22 he inherited the presidency of Seven Springs and its two rope tows, one of which was installed in 1935, making it one of the oldest in the United States. A year later, he bought a Poma lift from Jean Pomagolski who was visiting from Val d'Isere. He collected \$1.50 per day per skier, which included use of the 20 and 30 meter jumps. He also added floodlights and music for night skiing.

In 1957, Mr. Dupre married Mary "Sis" McSwigan, an English and physical education teacher from Pittsburgh. This was also the year Mr. Dupre attempted to make snow by spraying a garden hose in zero degree air. His experiments led to his snowmaking

system and eventually Seven Springs boasted one of the largest systems in the world.

In 1958, the Dupre's first daughter, Denise, was born. This was also the year they moved out of the shed that housed the Poma motor and into a home with heat. At this time resort guests stayed in men's or women's dormitories, the barn was converted into a rental shop, and Herman installed a second chairlift. In subsequent years eight additional children followed, as did a long list of improvements to the facilities at Seven Springs.

The years 1955 to 1978 represent the first half of Mr. Dupre's career at Seven Springs. During the 80's and 90's the resort continued to grow exponentially. Herman was instrumental in adding a range of new facilities including an Exhibit Hall, Festival Hall, recycling center, tubing park, and several lakes. And to this day, Herman still takes the time to throw another log on the fire.



Harry Griffith Jr.

Harry Griffith Jr. started skiing at age 5, and soon became interested in alpine ski racing, after his father formed a junior program for the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council in 1968.

He started as a JR-4 racer at 10 years of age, representing Norristown Ski Club, and after placing 2nd in his very 1st race, he was hooked on the sport! He trained at Elk Mountain, under the guidance of Coaches Irwin Muhlbauer, Dave Scott, Tom Acker, then later Bob Bortree and Cliff Long, Jr. As a JR-3 racer, he led the early Pennsylvania State team traveling squad, competing in series races in southern New York and later all of New England.

As a JR-1/2 racer, he was competitive with the best in the Middle Atlantic Region and became Pennsylvania State champion in both Slalom and Giant Slalom in 1974 and 1975. Dartmouth recruited Harry in 1975 to become a member of their ski team. He participated in several carnivals, culminating in Dartmouth's 1976 NCAA Championship. The same year, he also raced in the US Junior Nationals, making his mark in the downhill event for the 1st time. In between races and classes, he regularly returned to Pennsylvania, bringing seeding points and providing inspiration for the younger racers. As the winner of the Pennsylvania State Championship for a 3rd time in 1976, he became the 1st racer to achieve this feat, which retired the Governor's Cup trophy.

Skiing for Dartmouth in 1977 and 1978, he finished in the top 10 in many of the intercollegiate carnivals, and in his junior year he was selected as the team's alpine captain. During this period, he also was a member of the Eastern Cup and New Hampshire State Ski teams, and in 1978 was picked as a member of the US Downhill Development team. Electing to focus on speed events as a member of the US "C" Team in 1979 and 1980, he participated in both North American and Canadian Cup competitions, and achieved his personal best, winning the 1979 NorAm Eastern Downhill series. In 1980, racing as a 'rabbit' at a JR-1/2 downhill at Whiteface, he fell at high speed and suffered serious injuries, which ended his racing career.

Harry worked as a geologist for several years and then continued his interest in skiing, as a coach for the Lathrop Ski Camps in 1981 and 1982. In 1983, he returned to graduate school at the Tuck School, where for two years he coached the Dartmouth Development team.

Graduating with an MBA from Tuck in 1984, Harry worked for British Petroleum and continued to coach junior racers in

Cleveland, Ohio and at Snowbird, Utah.

Still with BP after 22 years, Harry is currently serving in Moscow, Russia, which has provided the opportunity to ski many of the areas in South America, Europe, Russia, China and Korea. He and his family have a home in Sun Valley, Idaho, where skiing is still an important part of life.



Harry Griffith Sr.

Harry started skiing in the early 1960's, joined the Norristown Ski Club in 1963, and then worked as a volunteer at the Elk Mountain races. With the growing popularity of skiing in the state, Pennsylvania Eastern Ski Council chairmen Bob Turner appointed Harry in 1968 to organize a junior racing program for the children of the more than thirty council ski clubs.

Harry and his family regularly skied at Elk Mountain, and in 1969, Harry approached owner's Gus Stepbacker and Jerry Beaudry to set up a formal racing program. A trail was set aside for race training, timing shacks were built, and experienced coaches were hired. Money to fund the program came from the Eastern Council's bargain barn, a concept that Harry borrowed from a Maine ski club. For years, the bargain barn was the Council's sole means to provide funding for its race program.

Alpine racing in Pennsylvania continued to grow, as the Central and Western regions of the state started junior racing programs similar to those sponsored by the Eastern Council. The increased level of Pennsylvania competition provided opportunities for closer coordination with the rest of the Middle Atlantic and New England states. The Pennsylvania Alpine Race Association (PARA) was set up as part of the reorganization of the United States Ski Association, and Harry was named as Chairman. Attending monthly USESA meetings in Brattleboro, he used this forum to get Pennsylvania Junior racers invited to races in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. In 1973, Harry and Bob Kilgore conceived the Pennsylvania Derby, the first State Championships, which were subsequently opened to out-of-state competitors. Harry remained chairman of PARA until 1979. As part of the racing world, Harry earned a National Technical Delegate ranking. He was one of four alpine officials from Pennsylvania who were selected to work as officials at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York.

Harry Griffith has been recognized for his contributions to Pennsylvania skiing. In 1968 - 1969 he received the Fritz Koenig award and was honored in 1969-70 for "Outstanding Service to the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council". In 1973 he received an award from EPSC in "Appreciation and with Thanks for Dedicated Service". In 1978 EPSC honored him "In Recognition for Your Many Years of Service in Establishing and Sustaining a Jr. Racing Program in PA". In 1980 he received an award for his service at the Lake Placid Olympics. Harry has also received numerous ski racing awards from the Norristown Ski Club and from the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council.

Skiing was a family affair with the Griffith's. Harry's two sons Harry Jr. and William started as Class 3 & 4 racers and worked their way into the upper ranks of Pennsylvania junior skiers. In 1976, Harry Jr. retired the Governors Cup, after winning the state championship three years in a row. Later, while skiing for Dartmouth College, he was named to the U.S. Ski Team Downhill Development Team. William raced in intercollegiate events for Bates College from 1977-83, and Harry's daughter Susan competed in the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, winning three gold medals. To support their skiing habits, Harry's wife Charlotte started working in the industry. After an initial stint at Bea's Ski Shop, she teamed up with George Salter to found Salter's Ski Shop. At 75 years of age, Harry still takes to the slopes along with his family and friends.

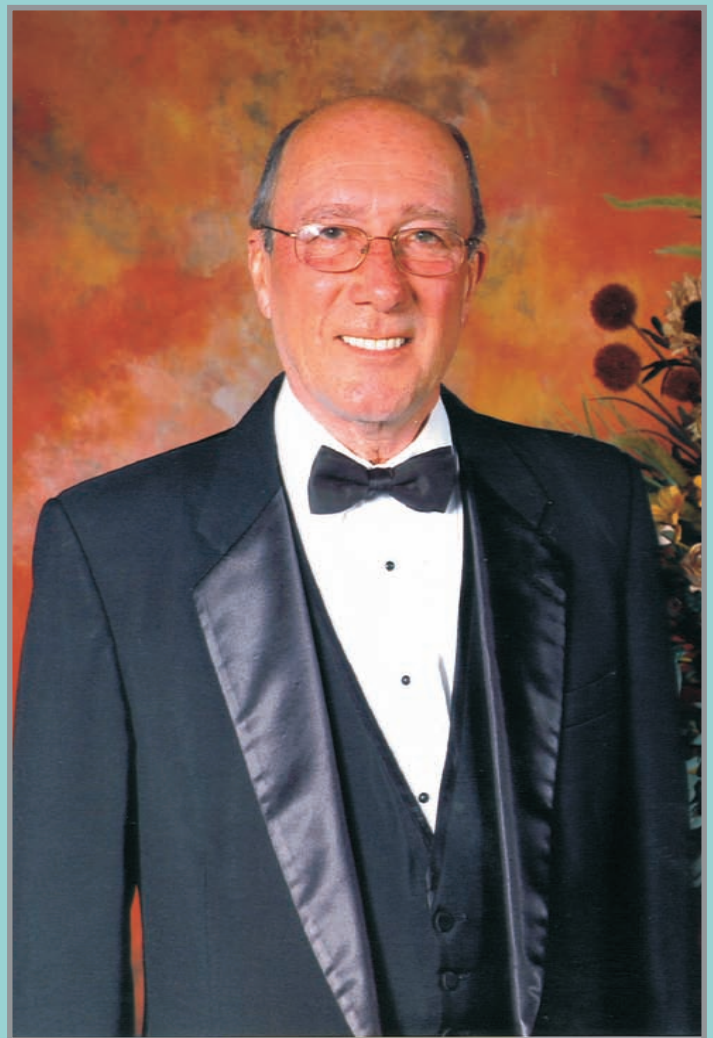


Dr. John Dematte

Dr. John Dematte is known as one of the founders of organized ski racing in Pennsylvania. In 1975, he developed a junior racing program at Jack Frost Ski Area that had eight participants. The next year the program expanded to forty racers and within four years a total of 180 racers. Dr. Dematte worked to include all local racing programs as events sanctioned by the United States Ski Association. He also successfully worked to have racing programs in other parts of the northeast sanctioned by the USSA, requiring that all racers become USSA members. His work resulted in the creation of the northeast council of the Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association, for which he served as Chairman. The council eventually included the following ski areas: Bear Creek, Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Camelback, and Shawnee. Dr. Dematte developed standards of performance for race officials, instituted a training program for referees and technical delegates, and developed a promotion system for alpine race officials. He also established an education committee within PARA, which served to plan and promote training clinics. Dr. Dematte organized and chaired the first referee certification clinic in Pennsylvania and in cooperation with USSCA and the Headmaster at Burke Mountain Academy in Vermont; he organized and chaired the first level one coach's certification program, which then led to the creation of other coach's certification programs in the northeast. Dr. Dematte was instrumental in instructing officials from a number of ski areas in the operation of the computer program for race administration and scoring results. Dr. Dematte has served as a past member, vice-chairman, and chairman of the Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association. He also formed the Jack Frost Junior Racing Foundation, which promotes amateur ski racing. In recent years Dr. Dematte has worked with others to expand the junior alpine racing program to Denton Hill, Montage, and Spring Mountain Ski Areas.

Dr. Dematte has been responsible for creating a number of alpine ski racing awards and he has received a few awards of his own. Dr. Dematte is known as the father of the Northeast Council Junior Alpine Racing Aware and sponsored the Dr. Dematte Junior Racing Program Sportsmanship Award. He is a recipient of the Lake Harmony Businessman's Award and the Big Boulder Award for promoting youth ski programs. The alpine racing ski trail at Jack Frost Ski area is named "Dematte's Demise" in his honor.

One of Dr. Dematte's colleagues noted that, "Seldom has one individual, over many years, provided so much commitment, energy, leadership and personal resources to the youngsters in the alpine ski racing program."



John (Jack) Willard Shaeffer

Jack Shaeffer was born in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, on March 30, 1907. With a pair of Northland skis won by his older brother in a card game, Jack became the first person in Ligonier to own a pair of store bought skis. Jack skied at the Laurel Mountain Ski Area after it opened in 1946 and in 1957 the manager told him to “go pick out a Ski Patrol jacket”. This was the start of Jack’s formal thirty year participation in the sport of skiing and patrolling. Jack served as a member and also as patrol director of the Laurel Mountain Ski Patrol. He became an American Red Cross First Aid Instructor and spent many years training new patrollers. When a new ARC multi-media first aid program was introduced; he volunteered to teach it to employees of the City of Pittsburgh. The Patrol Leader position led to his election as Section Chief in 1966. This entailed the coordination of training and oversight of five patrols and allowed him to push for and recruit more First Aid Instructors from the patroller’s ranks.

In the early 1970’s Jack Shaeffer was elected as the Appalachian Region ski patrol director. In that position he was responsible for fourteen Pennsylvania ski patrols with over 500 members. The ski industry grew in the Western Pennsylvania region, as it did nationally during the 1970’s and 1980’s, which created a continuing challenge to recruit and train skiers who would become dedicated ski patrollers, able to effectively serve the resorts and the skiing public. In the mid 1970’s, the National Ski Patrol System developed its own first aid training program called “Outdoor Emergency Care.” It required many more hours of in-house work retraining everybody involved in the delivery of emergency care. Once again, Jack Shaeffer’s strong leadership, salesmanship and communication skills helped his team of patrol leaders and their Outdoor Emergency Care Instructors complete this task.

During Jack Shaeffer’s tenure as Western Pennsylvania Regional Director of the Eastern Division of the NSPS, he promoted the idea that the Western PA region should host the Annual Fall Forum meeting of all ski patrol representatives from the Eastern Division. The Forum was hosted by the Western PA Region in 1976 at the Seven Springs Resort and was a great success. The Forum helped establish Western PA as a weekend skier’s destination of choice. In 1978, Jack was asked to become the Eastern Division’s second Chair Lift Evacuation Coordinator. Within two years he had put together and filmed a one hour narrated color slide

presentation that was utilized as a new training tool for all eleven states in the NSP Eastern Division. Jack Shaeffer turned over the reigns of the Regional Directors job in 1987. For over thirty years he represented the National Ski Patrol System as a dedicated volunteer. Jack cherished his National Appointment number (NSPW532) which he received for his many contributions to the organization John (Jack) Shaeffer died on November 24, 1998.



Vicoria Ann Freyer Shamer

(November 29, 1932 - August 29, 2003)

Vicki got an early start doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way. As a teenager in Pittsburgh, she retrieved two baseballs that had been hit out of Forbes Field and she succeeded in getting both balls completely covered with the autographs of the prominent ballplayers, managers and coaches of the era, including Jackie Robinson. Singing was also something that Vicki loved to do. At the age of seventeen she successfully tried out for a position with the company of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, however, she lost the position when it was discovered she was too young. She went on to win several amateur competitions, competing against notable talents such as Shirley Jones. Parental disapproval, however, halted her ambition to pursue singing as a career.

Vicki became an officer manager and was employed for ten years by a major stock brokerage firm. During that period, she obtained her stockbroker's license and became one of the first women to hold this position.

Vicki started skiing in her mid-twenties and wanted to include her friends on her ski trips on a regular basis. She started a ski club, the Three Nines, which then rented a large, old house from the Seven Springs Ski Area. She was responsible for planning weekend social activities at the clubhouse, which helped Seven Springs grow from a small hill with only a rope tow to a destination ski area. Vickie was invited to join the Seven Springs Ski Patrol, and after completing the required training, she became one of the first female ski patrollers in Pennsylvania and the first at Seven Springs. She was followed by other young women who might not have had the opportunity if it were not for her example and leadership.

Vicki's club interacted with the Western Pennsylvania Ski Council, and Vicki's spirited approach re-energized the Council. Because of her apparent leadership skills, she was encouraged to accept an office in the Pennsylvania Ski Federation. Vicki was instrumental in reviving the Central Pennsylvania Ski Council, which had not been active for fifteen years. Through Vicki's efforts, ski representatives were invited to attend a meeting in Boalsburg, which resulted in the reactivation of the council, with the required number of clubs, by-laws, officers, and program activities.

Vicki married and moved to suburban Philadelphia with her husband, Bob. She soon founded a new ski club, the Ski Club of Delaware Valley. Vicki believed in and advocated all types of promotional activities to advance skiing as a Pennsylvania recreational sport. She constructed banners for the Western Pennsylvania Ski Council, the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council and the Pennsylvania Ski Federation, some of which are still in use. These banners have come to symbolize her unflinching commitment and continuing involvement to skiing.

Vicki's last achievement was helping to establish the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum's Hall of Fame. She was the driving force behind the inaugural luncheon for Hall of Fame inductees. Without financing to cover expenses and with minimal assistance, Vicki raised funds, recruited people to help, arranged for advertising, and other resources to make the Hall of Fame luncheon a success and an annual part of the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum program.



W. Peter Benson

It began early in the winter season . . . long, black, heavy, metallic looking items lie in the living room, along with a pair of oversized hiking boots suitable for Herman Munster. A pair of branding irons with wrist straps stood in the corner. Yes, Pete, indeed, has found a new hobby!

Raising seven children alone, including clothing, feeding, private schooling, and tending to all of their emotional and physical needs, drove him to this new adventure. First deep sea fishing, then big game hunting, then martial arts, and now skiing? Has working at chemical plants taken its toll? But skiing??? The average African - American would never consider a cold mountain sport which includes red noses ears and cheeks, icicles on their mustaches and flying downhill on two narrow boards with no seat belts . . . but Pete did, and he returned from his first trip to the Pocono Mountains without major injury and vowed to return. He did, and soon arranged a trip for his entire family and the local C.Y.O. youth group. Soon, skis began appearing in new lengths and colors and the old leather Herman Munster boots were put out of service by a new lightweight model with gel inserts. Pete improved his skiing enough to enable him to join the National Ski Patrol. That sparked a new interest . . . the medical field. Pete enrolled in an Emergency Medical Technician course, became certified, and soon became the Captain of the Franklin Ambulance Squad . . . he was the only EMT on the squad! Several of his children followed in his footsteps, becoming EMT's and firefighters, as well as serving the public in other roles.

Pete continued serving people, friends and strangers alike. Over the years he became the National Safety Director of the National Brotherhood of Skiers, President of the Eastern PA Ski Council, Safety Chairman of the Blazers Ski Club, Chairman of the Board of the Blazers Ski Club and Director of Safety, and the Eastern Region Safety Director. He teaches American Red Cross first aid classes to adults and to middle school children in New Jersey, as well as many other related similar activities. Pete became a member of the National Ski Patrol System, (NSP) in 1969 and has patrolled at many Pennsylvania and New Jersey ski areas including; Holly Mountain, Chadds Peak, Camelback, Wissahickon Ski Club, and Spring Mountain, where he has patrolled since 1990. Pete received a certificate from the NSP Eastern Pennsylvania Central Section as the Most Valuable Patroller for 2004. His contributions helped the Spring Mountain Ski Patrol receive both the NSP's Eastern Division and Eastern PA Outstanding Patrol Award for 2004.

Peter is currently an NSP Outdoor Emergency Care instructor and an American Red Cross CPR! AED/FA instructor and he helps train patrollers at Spring Mountain and also for the Eastern PA Region. His experience as an Emergency Medical Technician, a member of numerous rescue squads and fire companies, and his training in search, heavy rescue, and evacuation, make him a valuable asset as a Spring Mountain patroller. Pete can be counted upon for his support of ALL of the activities of the patrol, including fund raisers, work sessions, and continuing education programs.



Gordie Bell

For over thirty-five years, Gordie Bell has served the ski patrol and the patrons at Pennsylvania's Ski Roundtop Ski Area. His dedication to the sport and to the ski patrol over these many years has inspired several new generations of patrollers. Gordie is a well-known and highly respected instructor and mentor for new patrollers. He has tutored and encouraged many to pursue their senior or certified classification patroller distinctions, which demonstrate ski ability and incident management beyond the level of a basic ski patroller. The contributions Gordie has made over the years to the Ski Roundtop Ski Patrol have helped to make this organization well known as an award winning ski patrol.

On his regular duty shifts, Gordie can always be found working to mentor candidates, new patrollers, and senior candidates, teaching them all aspects of patrolling and instructing them in ski and toboggan skills. Gordie organized and has instructed at the annual Eastern Division Patroller School for the past ten years. He cosponsored and annually instructs at both Eastern Pennsylvania Region "Ski Patroller School" and the "Ski with an Instructor" weekends. These two outstanding continuing education programs are well attended and accepted by the region patrollers and the resorts they serve. Over these 30 years Gordie has organized and conducted ski and toboggan skill clinics at ski areas throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Section and Region where he has given generously of his time in helping other patrollers to improve their skills. Over many years, Gordie has made numerous appearances before ski clubs, schools, and other community groups to speak on the subject of safe recreational skiing and to promote the sport in general. He has established close ties with Professional Ski Instructors throughout the Eastern Division, Eastern Pennsylvania Region and individual ski resorts. He has utilized their help in staging numerous continuing education clinics and Patroller Schools. Gordie has worked closely with ski area management to help establish and train many new patrollers.

Gordie Bell has been honored with the following NSP Awards and Certifications:

Lifetime Certified Patroller - Eastern Division
National Appointment Number 3940 (1972)

NSP Distinguished Service Award
Outstanding N.SP Alpine Patroller - Eastern Pennsylvania
Region Outstanding NSP Instructor -Eastern Division (1984-85)
Outstanding Patroller - Ski Roundtop
Annual Service Award - Ski Roundtop
Annual Outstanding Instructor - Ski Roundtop (2003)
NSP Yellow Merit Star (2000)
Numerous Certificates of Appreciation
Level I & II Avalanche Certification
Level I & II Mountain Travel & Rescue Certification

