



CAMP 10 SKI PATROL

SPRING REPORT -2020

The winter of 2019/20 was one of our best with great snow conditions and a very low guest injury/illness count. It also saw the edition of a Mountain Host Unit to the overall program. We currently have three people in the program with one of the three planning to move back into NSP as a patroller. This individual was a patroller for about ten years and obtained Sr qualification, retired for 8, and is now working her way back in. We believe the Mountain Host program gives us a much better way of gaining interest from the general public that can then result in a future candidate source for patrollers. Our approach is to enhance the normal MH training as presented in the Outdoor First Care so the MH can better interact as assistants to the Patrollers. This is particularly important in our situation where we have a very small patrol (7) and quite often only have one patroller on site. We have resurrected and rewritten an old OFC manual from 1994 which will serve as our basic reference guide for the OFC. The OFC, as officially presented, is considerably watered down from OEC – yet, with a few tweeks can be a good asset to normal patrol activities.

We are anxiously awaiting the release of recommended procedures developed via a joint approach of NSP and NSAA . Our interest was particularly tweaked when we ran into an unusual situation during our evac refresher last fall...the procedure which we had been using for 15 years in refreshers and in four actual lift evacuations did not work properly. We did do a careful analysis and concluded that the problem was

in the change in friction characteristics in our practice rope. We made the necessary changes and everything then worked as it should. But the situation has got us interested in possibly changing to the soon to be available new recommended practice guidelines from the joint committee.

Challenges are lying in wait for all of usrecruitment remains a major problem, the ski industry itself has low to no growth (statistically in decline) yet continues to place major emphasis on cannibalistic marketing instead of concentrating on bringing new blood into the sport. Last winters January “Learn to Ski “initiative pushed and supported by the Wisconsin Div of Tourism was a disappointment....many “Learn to Ski” packages were sold through the State but only a small percentage of the lessons that came with the package were actually taken, ie, the skiing public was buying the packages to get a super deal on the lift ticket and rental package cost....cash flow was nice but not many really new never before were brought in. The CORVID-19 is still raging and has a high probability of presenting a second wave in the Sept through December period. NSAA is doing a lot to generate idea exchange related to guest/staff/employee protections but how will it effect participation remains a big question. In our patrol we will be taking extra steps for patroller protection and patrol room sanitization. Camp 10 Ski Area is also looking closely at lift operator/guest protection in the outdoor environment. Special steps for indoor operations will include a number of social spacing adaptations, employee protections, and the question is still up in the air related to guest masking requirements indoors.....the virus is spread by breathing and touching. Challenging times for all.

Program wise I think we continue to miss some real opportunities in our Senior Program – and no this isn’t a shot at those who actually run the program- I firmly believe that much more could be achieved if the program could be more on a local scale than a region approach and more on a skills enhancement rather than second OEC test basis. Under the

current program design the cost, to the region, per successful candidate is roughly \$175. Possibly the highest single per capita candidate program in North Central.

For all of the challenges we are all faced with this year it is still the greatest when you can make that run down your favorite slope and all of the problems, trials, and tribulations just evaporate in the sheer joy of the moment.

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