



PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION, NATIONAL SKI PATROL

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From Dolores La Liberte- Division Director

I would like to apologize to all the members who wrote articles for the Nor'wester and to all members that were expecting to read the fall publication. Due to complications unbeknown to me the Nor'wester was not mailed or posted on the web-site. Since then the Editor has stepped down. Therefore, it seems to me there should be some communication within the Division so I have decided to write and post a letter now and then to keep in touch with the PNWD members. Of course this will be done only through our web-site. Thanks to John Haworth for taking care of getting the information posted.

The PNWD is looking for a new Nor'wester Editor. Qualifications and duties are posted on the web-site. If you are interested or know of someone who may be please give me a call.

The Division has just closed nominations for Division Director and also for Oregon and Northwest Region Director positions. Mt Hood Region Director's term is also up this year, but they have decided to run their own election. Nominees for Division Director are Rod Legg, Dave Ulrich and Brian Merryman. Nominees for Oregon Region are Michael Skeels and Craig Thornley. Liz Dodge was the only nominee for Northwest Region and is therefore elected by acclamation. Congratulations Liz. Ballots will be going out to all eligible voters on February 25, 2010. Announcement of the winners will be no later than April 4.

This has been a very different winter here in the PNWD. I think the only weather pattern that is predictable is the unpredictable. From what I hear the ski areas are all wishing for more snow, and are doing a great job of grooming and keeping the runs in shape for the customers. Let's all hope for more snow soon; maybe end of February first of March. ☺

I want to thank all of the Advisors in the PNWD for working hard with training. It has been rumored that the education programs are going well. Senior training is in full swing and hopefully everyone is nearly ready for the final evaluations. Good luck to all the Senior candidates.

A few months ago the National Office conducted a nationwide search for an Alumni Advisor. One of our own put in an application was interviewed and chosen for the position. Congratulations go out to Jose Elting from Oregon Region. Josie is also the PNWD Alumni Advisor and Registrar.

You most likely know that Terry La Liberte was termed out of his position on the NSP Board of Directors. Bela Musits was elected by acclamation as the new Board Chairperson. Also, the new Board members voted into office are John Lawson, Eastern Division, Janet Glaeser, Central Division, Frank Davis, Rocky Mountain, Division and Larry Bost, Southern Division. These individuals took the

place of Barb Dixon, Mark Reese and Terry La Liberte who were all termed out. Larry Bost was running for another term. Congratulations to all the new NSP Board Members.

Patroller Education Conference is being held again this year at Snowbird, Utah on April 14 thru 16, 2010. Registration has been extended. If you want more information go to NSP.org. Last year's event was a great success and patrollers had a fun educational time.

I have been thinking for some time now that we should highlight in each publication one of our areas in the PNWD. Not necessarily a long article, but just a brief summary of what makes them unique. It goes without saying; we all know that our own area is the best, but wouldn't it be interesting to learn about the others? Therefore: I want to highlight **Lookout Pass** in this letter.

Lookout Pass is located in the Northern Rocky Mountains, at the crest of the Bitterroot Range. They are just off of I 90 at exit 0. The Idaho, Montana state line runs through the middle of the area. The area is owned and operated by Phil and Wyn Edholm. Their philosophy is "We never set out to be the biggest. We just wanted to be the best in all we do and provide a ski and ride experience as it was meant to be."

Lookout Pass according to NOAA weather records receives more snow earlier and more consistent coverage than any other geographic area in the region (400 inches of snow annually). The slopes are wind protected by the surrounding mountains.

When you arrive at Lookout Pass Ski Area a large wooden sign greets you with a brief history of the area. It reads: Lookout Pass was first utilized by the Coeur d'Alene Indians as a passage to the Montana plains to hunt buffalo. In 1859 Captain John Mullan was commissioned to build a military road, which passed just to the south of here. The road was completed in 1862 and opened the door to prospectors who staked countless claims and made North Idaho the richest silver producing area in the world.

In 1891 the Northern Pacific Railroad laid track over Lookout Pass known then as the "Montana Divide". This section of railroad was famous for hard climbs and runaway trains. In 1922 the "Yellowstone Road" was built over Lookout Pass. First called Highway 10 and now known as interstate 90, it stretches from Seattle to Boston without interruption.

In 1938 the Idaho Ski Club started one of the nation's first ski areas – Lookout Pass. The lodge was built in 1941 by the US Forest Service. The lodge houses many pictures of the rich history of the area and the cedar interior is representative of the unique building style of the area.

Lookout Pass's opening day was February 24, 1938. The original lodge is the second oldest ski lodge in the Northwest.

There you are a little history of a great area. If and when you want to have an exhilarating skiing/riding experience visit Inland Empire Region's **LOOKOUT PASS**. For more information visit www.skilookout.com.