



National Ski Patrol

CENTRAL DIVISION

1999 CERTIFIED EXAM AT MARQUETTE MOUNTAIN

Welcome to the NSP-C 1999 Certified Exam at Marquette Mountain. The event will be held on February 25th-28th. Recertification will take place in the morning of the 25th. Candidates will have the opportunity to run some training sleds from Noon - 3:00. Please see the detailed events schedule enclosed.

On all days plan to be at the ski hill at 8:00. Tentative plans are to meet in the Alpine Building. This is the room directly above the patrol room. If there is a change it will be posted on the Patrol room door.

All Candidates should plan to bring their own sled. Sharing a sled with another participant is o.k. Make sure that your sled is marked with your ski areas name on the inside of the shovel. They should be left at the log cabin (snowmobile building at the base of the Snowfield Chairlift).

Candidates should also make contact with Tim Gaffney about what First Aid Supplies you can bring. His number is (810) 664-9571. Keep in mind that with the additional help of volunteers the efficiency of our exam improves. Volunteers are needed as sled riders on Friday and as patients in the OEC program on Saturday.

The Dress for all staff and candidates will be patrol parkas.

By looking at the schedule you will notice a few schedule changes. These changes are being made to improve the quality and efficiency of our exam. Our program is getting bigger and we have been trying to get too much done on Friday. We will begin a small portion of the exam on Thursday and will use a half day on Sunday.

This year is a big year for the Certified Program. To the best of my knowledge having twenty candidates in various stages of the program is a record. Of the twenty, ten are new to the program. This is a big step for our program as it continues to gain credibility, interest in the program continues

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to rise. Now that our program is growing it is even more important to have a strong staff representation at this year's exam and exams to follow. The Certified program would not mean anything without new candidates, it would be nothing without the staff members. Always remember, as a team we are very strong, but as individuals we are weak. Please plan to attend this year's exam as we will need all of you.

Being part of the Certified program is something to be proud of. Let's work together to take the program to the next level.

LODGING INFORMATION

Super 8 Motel (906) 228-8100 or 1-800-800-8000
Tiroler Hof Inn (906) 226-7516 or 1-800-82-9376
Days Inn (906) 225-1393
Comfort Suites (906) 228-0028 or 1-800-228-5150
Holiday Inn (906) 225-1351
Ramada Inn (906) 228-6000

DRESS WILL BE PATROL PARKAS

Saturday night there will be an organized dinner at one of the local restaurants. This is open to spouses, friends and significant others. Please indicate on the registration form if you will be attending the dinner.

All new candidates should have sent in a check for \$25 and returning candidates the fee is \$15. The check should be made out to: National Ski Patrol - Central. If you have not already sent this in please send the check in with your registration material.

Certified Manuals are available. If you need one in advance please send me a check for \$9 made out to NMU. They can be purchased at the exam for \$6.

Staff members that recertified earlier this year please fill out the enclosed recertification form and return with your availability sheet.

Enclosed you will also find the following information.

- 1) Exam registration form
- 2) Certified Staff and Candidates Roster
- 3) Outline of this year's exam with a review of our program
- 4) Candidate status report
- 5) Article from the Summer RPN
- 6) Exam Schedule

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Certified Staff and Candidates

FROM: John S. Keating

Date: January 24, 1999

RE: STATUS OF OUR PROGRAM

Last year we experienced some growing pains that we need to work out in our program. Our program is starting to grow and we must make the necessary changes to address this growth. The participation from the staff and volunteers has been outstanding, without this we would not have been capable of advancing as far as we have. Please do not ever think that the exam will do just fine without you. You are all very important to the program as each one of us makes a unique contribution.

The following information outlines the areas that we need to focus on. I arrived at my conclusions from feedback that I gathered following the last two exams, attending the Eastern Division Exam and my own personal observations.

Last year we had one of the largest freshman classes in a while. This year we have an additional ten candidates. This gives us a total of twenty candidates that are in various phases of the exam. It would be difficult to pinpoint exactly why we have been growing the past few years. I would like to think it is because other patrollers are looking at our program as one that represents class. Not so much that we are the best patrollers, but the best at the way we go about our business. The way we treat people and the way we help people is why we are looked up to. The pin means nothing to other patrollers if we do not represent it with pride, dignity and respect. One person can do a lot of damage to our program by stepping outside their level of authority. We do not have any authority, but what we have is the ability to lead by example and show others the right way. As our program continues to grow it is very important that we constantly analyze how we organize ourselves for the exam. How the candidates perceive our process is very important. They are the future of the program.

Last year I had the opportunity to attend the Eastern Division's Certified Exam on March 27-29th at Killington, Vermont. Overall I was very impressed with their exam and their staff. They welcomed me into their program, shared information, answered questions and asked questions. We

had a good exchange of information. Although I was very impressed with their program I felt like our skill level matched theirs in the Skiing, Toboggan, Chair Evacuation, Avalanche and OEC. I like the way they do their Area Operations Module, and they have a Module called Low Angle Rescue which I will talk about later.

Some of the comparisons with Eastern will be difficult. The number of staff and volunteers that they have to draw from is an administrators dream. But we can learn from them. They are organized, they have everything planned in advance. Each event leader has their task and their staff is lined up well in advance. We are doing this in some of our events, but not all of them. The beginning part of this preparation lies in each staff and candidate member filling out their registration form now.

STOP READING FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM

Send it to: John Keating, 2529 Co. Rd. 553 #3, Marquette, MI 49855

One of the biggest changes that you will see in this years exam is how the staff is utilized.

1) A smaller number of Ski and Toboggan Evaluators will be utilized. They will be pre-determined from the pre-registration process. On Thursday afternoon there will be a clinic for the staff evaluators. This will be the beginning of implementing the process of becoming a ski and toboggan evaluator. This is directly related to the feedback that I have been receiving from the staff members the past few years. We need to improve on our consistency in scores and comments that go on the sheets. Staff members that are active in their Senior Programs, Phase II Toboggan Instructors and Instructor Trainers and/or have PSIA Certified will be the first ones looked at. I realize that not all of our staff is involved in these areas, but this is where we need to start. The goal with this is to improve on consistency of scores and more importantly the comments section of the score cards.

2) Also Thursday afternoon there will be a staff clinic for Chair Evacuation, Avalanche and Area Operations. The event coordinators will organize these events.

3) During the Ski and Toboggan Exam there will be two staff members assigned to setting the Toboggan course. They will pre-run the course and make any necessary arrangements. If the course is altered they must re-run the course.

PRE/POST RUNNERS - will only be used when there is a course involved. Basically a pre and post runner is only used to see if the conditions of the course have changed.

COURSE SETTING REQUIREMENTS - The course must be set with the following in mind: It is not a test to see who takes the perfect line, but rather who has the skills to run the course. We need to set a course that brings out those skills.

4) New Event Coordinators will be considered for all areas except the OEC. Please indicate your interest on the registration forms. This is an effort to get more people involved in different phases of the exam. Keep in mind if you express interest, what I really need is volunteers to do the necessary leg work to organize their areas. Making regular contact with me prior to the exam (preferably by E-Mail). Would need to having your staff lined up prior to the exam. Enclosed are some copies of the Module Guidelines from Eastern. I would like each event coordinator to have one of these prepared for their area. Once the coordinators have been selected, I will get in touch with them to discuss anything else that needs to be completed.

5) This year we will be adding Low Angle Rescue to our program. It will be a clinic for at least the next two years. This clinic will be for staff and candidates. John Major has been working on it and will run the clinic. I saw this event at the Eastern Exam and was really impressed with it. I defiantly think it is something that we can use in our program. Enclosed is a copy of Eastern's Manual. We will discuss the Module at our Annual Meeting.

6) Avalanche - Last year the decision was made that we needed to set a time limit for the physical search. Three to five minutes is the standard. The Avalanche leader will make a determination of what will be the acceptable time frame. We will include a written test in this years exam. We still need to improve on this Module. We have a limited number of staff members that are capable of evaluating in this area.

7) Emergency Care - This area has run very well the past several years. Communications need to be improved between groups and Event Leader. To improve on this there will be all OEC evaluators will meet Friday night following the Annual Meeting. Candidates will also find out who they are teamed with for the OEC Praticle station on Saturday. As with all levels of NSP the OEC Evaluation is the most difficult to administer. There is always

room for misinterpretation on both the candidates part as well as the evaluators part. Both staff and candidates have to do what ever it takes to eliminate that chance of misinterpretation. As a staff member make sure we ask the right questions. As a candidate, make sure you do not leave any doubt in the evaluators mind about what you are doing.

In the event that their is a conflict, Tim Gaffney OEC Coordinator will review the facts and make a decision to the best of his ability. We will live with this decision and move on. Tim may wish to consult with the a candidate or evaluator, however there will not be any committee decisions once the exam is in progress. If Tim feels he needs to consult with me, that will be his choice, otherwise he will be the final decision on all OEC matters.

8) Area Operation - Enclosed is a copy of what the Eastern Division used for their evaluation. Notice their is an indoor portion that covers the Patrol Management Interview section. The second part of this is a Risk Management/Hill Safety Interview. This takes place at the base of a chairlift. The questions that we ask should be pre-determined by the Event Leader.

9) Recertification - this task will be handed over to the Ski and Toboggan Leader. He/she will be responsible for tracking this.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

BITS N PIECES

RPN ARTICLE

Enclosed is a copy of my article that was published in the Summer Issue of the RPN. I write this article to serve as a review of the past ski season as well as planning for next ski season. This issue serves as our first mailing about upcoming events. All of the qualification clinics and event coordinators are listed in this article so everyone from staff to candidates can be informed of the upcoming season. If there is something that you think should be included in this article please let me know.

While I am on the subject of the RPN. As a Certified Patrollers I think that it is essential that we are up to date with what is going on in our organization. Reading the RPN is a good way to stay in touch with the many programs. An occasional visit to the Central Division Web Sight is also a good way to keep up.

The address is: www.nsp.org/divisions/central

PATROL TRAINING

This is a perfect time for the Certified program to step up and help out in these trying times of change. Please read Tom Anderson's article from the Winter edition of the RPN (copy enclosed). My request to the Certified crew is to step up at your local area, section and region to offer your help and support in training and evaluation. We have made the offer to the Region Directors that if they need help with anything to let us know. In the long run our National Education System as well as the Certified Program that means so much to us will be better off because of it. For those of you that are already doing this, thank you for your dedication and support to the NSP Training Programs. Because of your efforts our program has gained new respect and recognition's. Thank You.

SNOWBOARDING

I have something for you hot skiers.

I am in charge of the Marquette Mountain Ski and Snowboard School. Since our Snowboard School has been growing so much I decided that I needed to get in better touch with what my instructors needs were. So I made the commitment to learn to snowboard. The first thing that I did was study the sport. I read anything I could get my hands on about Snowboarding. After all if I was going to do this I was going to do it right. I also thought about what was it that I liked about snowboarding. Right away the half pipe, jumps, flips and all the other funky stuff was ruled out. What I liked was when I saw someone ripping down the hill carving a trench in the snow. I also liked seeing the real athleticism in short radius carved turns and the ability to float in the powder. After all of this research, it was clear to me that I should get an Alpine Carving Snowboard (Volkl of course), used with Pate Bindings and Hard Boots.

The next part is not what I expected to happen. I started having fun, a lot of fun. After only riding for a week in a half I am "riding" almost all of the runs at Marquette. If you want to add some new excitement to your life then the answer is get on a Alpine Carving Snowboard.

The initial learning curve is a little steeper than learning to ski, after that you will learn fast and progress fast. As always, take lessons from someone who knows. One thing that is will also do is give you a new perspective in dealing with beginners. When is the last time you said: "Wow, is the bunny hill ever steep," or "This chairlift is running fast." If you have any questions about how I set myself up give me a call or send me an E-Mail. As a reminder: I am still looking for our first Certified Snowboarder.

RECERTIFICATION

Special thanks to the Event coordinators who hosted the Recertification Clinics and Qualification Clinics. Thanks to Tom Anderson, Jim Andrews, Cobie Bland, Patrick Perlman, Tim Weinand and Tom Worley. You guys make it happen. The events do not happen without support from the rest of the staff. In addition to the Event Coordinators and the staff members who recertified the following also gave a helping hand: Brian Cobble, Guy Day, John Keating, James Koelzer, John Major, Dan Somalski and Chris Wedekind. Thank you for your help.

The following Staff Member Recertified earlier this winter:

Tom Anderson
Rick Barber
Ed Davis
Bill Hubbard
Eric Kaye
Dan Kleymer
Paul Kuyper
Terry Spohn

The following are up for Recertification at the Marquette Event

Anne Blaedow
Jeff Cripps (Injured)
Mike Husar
Tom Worley

If there are any corrections please let me know. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the ski season. The conditions here at Marquette are superb. Conditions should be outstanding for this years exam.

Happy Trails to all of you.

Minutes of the 3/5/98 Central Division Certified Meeting - Knubs Knob, Michigan

Attendees:

Staff:

Dan Somalski #426, Hal Froot #378, Dan Kleymeer #188, Jim Koelzer #359, Tom Worley #179, Jim Andrews #380, Chris Wedeland #384, John Keating #425, Cobie Bland #323, Timothy Weinand #361, Ed Hickman Jr. #382, Bill Mc Cullough # 379, Tom Anderson #407, Chuck Martschinkie #460, Guy Day #381, Patrick Perlman #492, Mike Vaerewyck #461, Ed davis #186, Timothy B. Gaffney #494

Assistants:

Bob Meyers, Beach Day

Candidates:

Chris Hopper, Paul S. Fuchs, Eric Gesteland, Mark Harring, Jane Mausser

John opened the meeting by thanking the ^{Nubs Nob} ~~Knubs Knob~~ ski area for their support of the program, and for the use of the area for this year. He also thanked Bob Meyers and Beach Day for their continued support of the program.

Timothy B. Gaffney read the minutes of the meeting from the previous year (1997)
Motion to approve minutes as read - Dan S./ T Anderson - Passed

John K. introduced the new manual with updates, he indicated that not enough new material appeared to justify the purchase if Staff members had purchased last years copy. However new manuals were available for \$9.00 from him.

The group was generally pleased with the days Re-Certification

The staff was reminded to keep an open mind on the process. That the need to look back over the years for an average when it comes to conditions the day of the test. That here in Michigan we are subject to conditions that change year to year and we have to adjust to them.

Also discussed was the need for testers to learn to justify on their score cards any reasons for a non-pass.

Candidates were advised to show proper skill levels in events even in short terrain. They were also informed about the next days events, and what to expect.

CLINIC SUMMERY

South Central

Chris W. & Tim W.

3 Candidates were accepted Chris W. indicated this to be a good clinic, Chris also talked about promoting the Certified Program in the Region.

Tim W. also ran a Region Clinic. He felt this too went well. Tim also thought it would be a good idea to use the news letters to promote the program.

Dan S. brought up the idea of Certified Patrollers putting on Clinics for interested patrollers or areas.

John K. noted that Individual effort was good however he felt a need for the group to work together.

Knubs Knob

Dan S.

2 Re-Certs Rick B. & Ed D.

Dan Said the day was not good for the skiers. 3 candidates turned out but they were only able to move one to this years test.

Marquette

John K.

Bill H. ,Eric K., John M. attending

3 candidates moved to this years test.

GENERAL REMINDER

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE COMING YEAR BE SURE THEY HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS IN BY JANUARY 1st. ALONG WITH THEIR \$25.00 FEE THIS WILL GET THEM THROUGH THEIR 1st. YEAR. EACH ADDITIONAL YEAR HAS ADDITIONAL \$15.00 FEE THAT IS REQUIRED.

OLD BUSINESS - - - NONE

Chuck M. Talked about new programs and their effect on the patrol. Than he gave a strong pat on the back to John K. for his continued work on the Certified Program.

He followed with an up-date on the current law suit, and related it's effect to our program. In general we must use extreme caution when we indicate that an exercise must be completed before passing a test, that the candidate knows that HE / SHE has the option to decline if they do not feel safe attempting the exercise. We as a group must remain vigilante of our candidates to help prevent injury. That we must use caution when we put on a test.

NEW BUSINESS

CLINIC sites needed for 2000 - 2001

note: see attached letter from Bill Hubbard with a motion to use Mt. Frontenac as an alternate site for future Certified Tests / Clinics

The letter was read and discussed among the staff. Several of the staff have been there and indicated an interest in using the area due to it's location for those coming from outside Michigan.

Motion made and seconded By Chuck M. / Tom A. to O.K. the hill for a Re-Certification and hill validation for future events. After which a follow up for dates. passed

Test Sites

Motion made and seconded by Tom A. / Dan S. to use Marquette Mt.. for next years event. Dates March 4-5-6 passed

Motion made and seconded by Tom A. / to use Boyne Mt.. for the year 2,000 event. Dates March 2-3-4 passed

Motion made and seconded by Jim A. / Chris W. to use Mt. Frontenac in 2,001 Dates March 1-2-3 passed

Motion made and seconded to use Knubs Knob in 2002

CLINIC sites established for next year

Marquette - Boyne - Perfect North slopes - Cascade - Chestnut, *mount Frontenac*
We need to be sure to staff these events with sufficient personal for candidate and re-certification requirements.

Dinner plans were set for the weekend than Tom A. was introduced to the candidates as the Advocate for this years test.

The entire group was reminded that the show starts at 8:15 tomorrow, and they are to be ready to ski!

Motion made by Guy D. seconded by everybody to adjourn the meeting.