

# NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN NORDIC SKI PATROL



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## MOUNTAIN MUSINGS

by Bill Gabriel

As the warmer weather approaches, and the red klistler migrates down the skis toward the floor, my thoughts turn once again to last winter. We could banter numbers around regarding days open and skier visits, but suffice it to say this wasn't a banner year, nor was it a bust. Although we received 75 inches of snow this season, several warm spells and rain events often made it seem like considerably less snow fell. Although the depth of snow was pretty marginal for most of January, we skied with machine-groomed packed powder and hard wax conditions for several weeks before the snow morphed into the hard, frozen granular surface that we all know and curse. After a week of spring temperatures in mid February (I believe that's why its called winter vacation week...), the cold weather and snow returned in early March for round two of winter. This was certainly the best skiing of the year, with good cover and great snow quality.

There were few injuries reported this year, and I don't recall sleds going out for any rescues. The most severe injury reported was a lower extremity injury, specifically the left tarsal of a ten year-old. The patient complained of pain and tenderness with minimal swelling and ecchymosis, associated with the anterior, proximal, and lateral portion of the talus and the inferior, distal, and lateral portion of the malleolus. Yes, my friends, a sprained ankle. Other than the ankle injury and a sprained pinkie finger, things were pretty quiet.

In the things new department, (*continued on next page*)

### Executive Board

2005 – 2006 Season

**Patrol Representative**-----Tom Deam

**Assistant Patrol Rep**-----Bob Duris

**Patrol Secretary**-----Bill Schweikert

**Patrol Treasurer**-----Sue Menick

**Past Patrol Rep**-----Bill Osborn

**Patrol Liaison**-----Bill Gabriel

## WIYAKA WEEKEND

**Friday through Sunday**

**September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>**

Mix together patrollers, their families and guests, add a lake, things that float, a roaring campfire and lots of tents, and you have all the ingredients for a fun-filled retreat.

Tom Deam has reserved the YMCA Camp Wiyaka for our exclusive use from Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The camp is in Richmond, NH, only about a half hour from Keene and Mt. Monadnock. Directions from the intersection of Rt. 119 and Rt. 32: head north on Rt. 32 for about one and a half miles. Turn left onto Sandy Pond Road. The camp entrance is one mile on the left.

Ten canvas tent platforms have eight bunks each (bring sleeping bags), and surround a large campfire pit for 'smore creations, burnt hot dogs, and loud singing. You don't have to know the words to any songs—we made up a lot as we croaked along last year.

We'll have all the comforts of home: walk-in refrigerator and full kitchen in the dining hall, and showers and toilets in the bathhouse. If you forget anything, the Four Corners Store is just down the road. They make great sandwiches!

The camp is on the shores of the ½ mile-long Sandy Pond. Canoes, rowboats, kayaks, and a sailboat are available, and fifty yards out is a raft with a diving board. *Camp Rule: Parents need to be in the water with their children. There will be no lifeguards!*

Plan to camp out for two nights, one night, come for just a day or evening—whatever fits your schedule. We'll be planning a group meal for Saturday night. After some early morning frolicking on Sunday, we'll join forces to leave the camp as spotless as we found it before we depart. And yep, Tom the one-armed sweeper, raker, etc. will be there.

Contact Tom by September 1<sup>st</sup> if you are able to come. We'd like a rough headcount for the group meal, and to plan who is bringing what for the big feed. Tom: (978) 544-5420 or [tcdeam@verizon.net](mailto:tcdeam@verizon.net).

*Save the Date:*

**FALL REFRESHER – OCTOBER 15 & 16**

## CHOCOLATE POT CHAT

Hi all,

Hope all are enjoying the “off season.” I recently pried my skis out of the back of the truck. Klister has a tendency to become an adhesive when exposed to extreme heat. The skis will be coming out in March next year.

The past season looked good from a patrol perspective. No weekend went uncovered, as at least one Patroller was in attendance every Saturday and Sunday. Snow conditions kept us on our toes, faces, sides, and other body areas, yet no major injuries occurred. Hurt pride is not a major injury!

Seven candidates completed the Nordic Skills portion of training. Congratulations! It was great to see their enthusiasm, teamwork, and excellent ski skills. Three more candidates have signed up since the season ended. A OEC Course is being planned, and hopefully all will be upgraded to Patrollers by the end of next season.

Twenty people sad to see the season end attended the end of the season banquet. Joannie Duris was the Hawley Award recipient and Sue Menick happily accepted the prestigious Flounder Award. Bob Duris showed a video on the history of the Thunder Bolt Ski Trail and of the skiers who raced and helped ensure its place in history.

The weather in May had a “dampening” affect on weekend hikes before bug season. Hopefully we can get back to some interesting and different hikes after bug season. If anyone has a favorite hike or walk they’d like to share let us know. I hate to say it, but I won’t be going off road for a while. Recent shoulder joint replacement surgery will keep me walking on smooth pavement for the summer.

Finally, the annual Camp Wiyaka event is the weekend after Labor Day, Fri-Sat and leave Sunday. I’ll end with two definitions of volunteer; (n) One who enters into service or offers to serve of his or her own free will, (v) To offer or bestow voluntarily. To offer oneself as a volunteer. The definitions are in the dictionary just before voluptuary.

*Tom Deam*

**MOUNTAIN MUSINGS** *(continued from page one)* there is a new AED at the front desk. It’s a Zoll AED Plus. The biggest difference (besides the color) appears to be the style of contact pads. The pad looks like one big honkin’ chest hair-ripping pad when in reality it’s a big pad with two smaller electrode patches. The other news is that there is a new trail map in the works. I’ve sent it back for the second edit, there’s still another round to go, so hopefully it will be ready to go by mid-summer. We’re also looking at having some “Dog Days” here at Northfield next winter, possibly herringbone with a hound, skate with a shepherd, pole with your pooch, or perhaps waxing with your Weimaraner if the weather is bad... naming is easy, development and management is more difficult and still needs work.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work this past winter, I really do appreciate the work and commitment that goes into providing quality care and service. Best wishes for the summer, see you at camp.

## SPRING AWARDS BANQUET

by Joannie Duris

Twenty-two patrollers, candidates, and guests (I counted) feasted on the fine food at the Countree Living Restaurant last April ninth. Many of us found it hard to leave room for the prime rib, baked salmon, or chicken cordon bleu when we had such a great selection of hot hors d’oeuvres to graze on.

Tom Deam presided over the awards ceremony. Service awards were presented for the following patrollers: 15 years – Larry Pottebaum (2 years late, but better late than never); 20 years – Kristin Peterson, Jean Bergstrom.

Bob Perry was given the Mr. Klister Award for sticking to the patrol from “1975 until who knows when.” He was also presented with a Dumpster Diving Award for his heroic attempts to find our missing checks after the anniversary banquet. He shared his doggy dumpster story with terrifying details about that attack beagle. Woof?

The Bill Hawley Outstanding Patroller Award was presented to Joannie Duris for all her attention to behind-the-scenes details in the patrol room, at patrol meetings, and work on the Rattlebone.

After Bob Perry shared the history of the Flaming Flounder Award, the ugly green fish was given to Sue Menick, our patrol treasurer, for obvious reasons.

Bill Gabriel gave us some brief statistics about the season that was. The trails were open for 31 days of skiing—slightly above the average of 30 days. Bill thanked the patrol for our help, noting that even with fewer public skiers there are still people who need directions on the trails or other assistance. He also thanked the historical and anniversary committees for all their efforts toward our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. (Details about the anniversary banquet, including photographs, can be found on our website.)

After door prizes were drawn, we had a fascinating look at the beginnings of the Thunder Bolt Ski Trail on Mount Greylock—from construction to early races. I doubt we could have done half the things they did on that antique equipment. We’d all be recipients of the Flounder Award.

[WWW.NMNSP.ORG](http://WWW.NMNSP.ORG)

**Don’t forget to check our website for the latest patrol news and dates of upcoming courses and events.**

**If you don’t remember the user name and password for entering the ‘patrol room’, contact Bill Schweikert at: [webmaster@nmnsp.org](mailto:webmaster@nmnsp.org)**

*The next issue of the Rattlebone will be published in mid-September. Please get all articles, information, etc. to Joannie Duris by September 15th:  
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(979) 928-5587 or [jduris@rcn.com](mailto:jduris@rcn.com)*