

## NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN NORDIC SKI PATROL

# Rattlebone Online

Volume 26

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### PATROL AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>

COUNTREE LIVING RESTAURANT

COCKTAILS 6PM - DINNER 7PM

After the big bang of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, we have planned a quieter evening for patrollers, candidates, friends, family and significant others to come together to look back at this season's accomplishments.

As in past years, we will be in the banquet room at the Countree Living restaurant, just down from Northfield Mountain on Route 2 in Erving (next to the bowling alley.) The patrol has been able to reduce the cost of the banquet to \$10/meal for both patrollers and guests. *Patrollers and candidates will be refunded the cost of their own meals at the banquet.*

Our banquet menu will include the following:

*Hot hors d'oeuvres  
Chef's cheese and cracker tray  
Seasonal appetizer*

*Fresh garden salad with chef's house dressing  
Warm French bread, rolls and butter*

*Choice of entrée:  
<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pound slow roasted Prime Rib  
Baked Salmon*

*Chicken Cordon Bleu with sauce a la chef*

*Entrees will include a fresh vegetable and roasted potatoes, choice of beverage, and dessert - apple crisp topped with ice cream and a caramel sauce.*

All checks and reservations should be mailed to Bob Perry by Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions, or would like to make arrangements for a vegetarian meal, contact Bob at perryrf@nu.com, or give him a call at 413-863-2658 (home) or 413-659-4468(work.)

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

*By Joannie Duris*

As promised last issue, we continue with the next installment of e-mail interviews: a fun way to get to know more about our fellow patrollers and candidates.

**Drew Trainor** is one of our seven candidates who successfully completed all of his Nordic Skills training this season. He grew up in Vermont, but traveled a bit for college; first at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in up-state New York, then at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Two years of staring at cornfields in Illinois was more than enough for Drew, and he moved back East three years ago. Since then, he has been working as an electrical engineer in Northampton. (Now that Bob Duris knows there is a fellow engineer on the patrol, we can expect lots of tech talk on the trails. Probably a good thing Drew and Bob didn't know they were in the same field before training was finished.)

Drew downhill skis regularly, but had only been cross-country skiing two to three times a year for the last couple of years. Last year he ran (continued on next page)

### BANQUET RESERVATIONS FORM

## CHOCOLATE POT CHAT

Hi all,

The season started out a bit late but has kept going right up until patches of grass can be seen. Conditions have varied this year, from great fresh snow to some icy spots, and then back again to fresh snow. Only one weekend of klister or waxless.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet went well. Bill Osborn started pushing for this two years ago! Numerous patrollers were involved on the Historical Committee: Bill S, Ozzie, Bob Perry, Charlene, and Frank. They were able to gather Patrol History and pin down the exact “born on” date for our patrol. Frank initially developed a good plan for the celebration and started the ball rolling, but a lack of contributions required the scaling back of plans. The banquet then became our main focus. Bob Perry was the ramrod with Bill Schweikert providing excellent assistance. Let’s not forget Bob and Joannie’s banquet program design, and doers of the final touches! All of this work resulted in a banquet celebration enjoyed by many expatrollers.

We had seven candidates start Nordic Skills training this season, and all seven finished! Ann, Dave, Drew, Jessica, Kim, Sharon and Stan are ready for the next phase: OEC. A few more candidates joined later in the season, and we hope they will be able to participate in the OEC training in the fall. This will give us ten new patrollers next season! A large factor in all completing the training was the excellent program Bob Duris put together this season.

What’s coming up? Well, the annual Patrol Spring Banquet, for one, on April 9<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6pm. The price will be \$10 per plate. Patrollers and candidates will be refunded the cost of their own meals at the banquet. Hope to see many of you there!

Spring and summer are good times to stay active. Hikes are one method of keeping those skiing muscles in shape. If you know of a good hike all would like, let me know.

Camp Wiyaka is reserved for the weekend after Labor Day. All who attended last year enjoyed the quiet and rustic accommodations. Yes, there are flush toilets and showers, but they require a short uphill stroll. Plan now, and let me know if you can make it.

Thanks to all who patrolled this year. No weekend went uncovered.

*Tom Deam*

*The next issue of the Rattlebone will be published in mid-June. Please get all articles, information, etc. to Joannie Duris by June 18th:  
36 Lombard Road, Hubbardston, MA 01452  
(979) 928-5587 or jduris@rcn.com*

### 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

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU....(continued)

into Bill Schweikert while skiing at Northfield Mountain, and Bill told him about the ski patrol. You never know whose path you may cross! Bill had been one of Drew’s high school teachers when he was a student at Northfield Mount Hermon.

The ski patrol has been a great way for Drew to get in more skiing time as well as learn a lot of new things, and he notes he has had a lot of fun doing it.

While waiting for more e-mail interviews to come in from candidates, I thought it might be fun to bring this story full circle. Now that we know about his past connections with Drew, I asked Bill Schweikert to share some of his own history.

**Bill Schweikert** first joined the patrol thirty years ago, back at the beginning. In those days there was no WEC, no OEC. He completed the prerequisite ARC Advanced First Aid course, and in 1974 went on to become a nationally registered EMT. He also patrolled at Mount Mohawk, a tiny ski area west of Greenfield.

Bill dusted off recollections of those early days to share a couple of events. A weekend training session was held at Stowe, VT, with the group staying in a state-run ski dorm and skiing at the Trapp Family Lodge. Back at Northfield, the patrol was involved in a night exercise, with the SnoCat carrying the group up Reservoir Road for a ski down Hemlock and Tooley-bush. He stayed with the patrol for two years before leaving to focus on his personal and professional life, but that doesn’t mean he put away his skis.

Bill’s skiing experience includes a ski tour up Mt. Greylock and skiing into Chimney Pond at Mount Katahdin for a week of winter camping. He also skied the Headwall at Tuckerman’s Ravine in April of 1975, but admits he didn’t go very high up. (I can guarantee it was *way* higher than I would have gone.)

From the seventies through the nineties, Bill taught cross-country skiing and coached the sport in Northfield. After he retired from teaching, he returned to the patrol in October of 2001. He can still ski circles around most of us, and has given countless hours of his time as our patrol secretary and webmaster.