

NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN NORDIC SKI PATROL



Volume 27

Issue 1

September 30, 2005

NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN

OEC REFRESHER

Saturday, October 15th

7:45a.m. – 4:30p.m.

CPR/HILL REFRESHER

Sunday October 16th

8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.

The patrol's Camp Wiyaka weekend in early September mixed business with pleasure, and many details for our Refresher were hammered out then. How can we review the same material year after year, and still keep the 'fresh' in Refresher? You'll just have to wait until October 15th and 16th to find out.

What to bring: On Saturday, bring your OEC card, completed Refresher Study Guide, lunch, weather gear, and patrol pack. Note the stress on completed. Take the time to read your study guides and fill out the scenario questions ahead of time. We will be reviewing these *early* on Saturday morning and collecting everyone's completed scenarios. Don't forget to also bring your checkbook on Saturday, as all patrollers will need to pay their dues when they register (\$53 – make checks payable to the Northfield Mountain Nordic Ski Patrol). Patrollers who met their patrolling requirements last season may opt to have the patrol pay their dues for this year.

On Sunday: The CPR recertification will start at 8:00 a.m. Patrollers who don't need CPR on Sunday due to completing this requirement elsewhere won't need to arrive at the mountain until 11:00 a.m., but should plan to be ready to head out with the group by 11:15. We'll have a pasta lunch ready and waiting for everyone at the Chocolate Pot. After lunch we'll have dedication ceremonies for the memorial benches for Art Bastien and John Kozik, along with some surprise activities. For Sunday, bring your patrol packs, weather gear, team spirit, and big appetites.

The patrol calendar will be available all weekend, so plan to get a jumpstart on the season, and sign up for some or all of your patrol days. The powers-that-be are predicting a snowy winter.

THE SEASON AHEAD

This is just a quick look at key events for the patrol through the end of December. All are at Northfield Mountain. Check our website for more details and other events of interest.

October 15 & 16: FALL REFRESHER

See article for details. Contact Tom Deam if you can't attend, so other arrangements can be made.

Sat. November 12, 6 p.m.: PATROL MEETING & CANDIDATES' NIGHT – Snow isn't far away. Is our patrol room well stocked and organized, ready to go? Welcome new candidates and answer their questions.

Sat. December 10, 6 p.m.: PATROL MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY – A quick business meeting, and then on to the festivities. Patrollers, candidates, friends and family are all welcome to join us for our holiday party. Bring some potluck food (stuff to eat on and with will be provided), and a gift valued around \$10 for our patrol version of Yankee swaps. Gifts can be serious or silly, and don't have to relate to patrol activities in any way. Plan to sing along with the Duris party mascot.

Sat. December 17: SKI SEASON OPENS

CANDIDATES' CORNER

All registered candidates who haven't completed a OEC course are still welcome and encouraged to come to the Refresher. Come prepared to be bandaged and boarded on Saturday, and enjoy the camaraderie on Sunday.

We also hope to see all interested public, potential candidates, and returning candidates on Candidates' Night in November. If you are interested in joining the patrol, but unable to attend that night, please contact our Patrol Representative, Tom Deam at: tcdeam@verison.net or 978-544-5420. You can learn more about our patrol, how to join, and what to expect by checking out our website: www.nmns.org.

We are in the final planning stages for a full Outdoor Emergency Care course to be offered this fall at Northfield Mountain. Candidates will be notified as soon as details are worked out.

CHOCOLATE POT CHAT

by Tom Deam

Just a few things to share to bring everyone up to speed. First, the patrol is getting new radios: six, Kenwood TK 380's will be in place by the start of the ski season. Actually, we hope to have them available for our Refresher. They are not as large as the ones we use now and will be a bit more comfortable to carry. And yes, they will also work with the existing repeater frequency the Mountain has.

Next, two benches have been purchased as memorials to Art Bastien and John Kozik. Art's will be placed at the Chocolate Pot and John's will be at the summit. Plaques are being engraved for each bench. Let's hope there won't be any more benches bought in the near future!

The thorny subject of uniforms is again on a burner. Rust and navy outerwear is hard to find, especially for Nordic use. We are trying to get a few samples of jackets from distributors for all to look at and comment on. We are not asking for anyone to buy at the Refresher – just look and comment. In this day of high prices for fuel and heating oil, added uniform purchases would break the bank! More word at the Refresher.

Speaking of Refresher – it is coming soon! *Please read your Refresher Study Guide and fill out the scenarios and bring the Guide with you to Refresher.* It will start on Saturday, October 15th, with registration at 7:45, and end well past midnight. Actually it will end around 4:30-5:00. Bring a lunch! Sunday will start at 8:00 with CPR/FPR recert. Lunch will be a common meal like last year and then we'll have dedication ceremonies for the memorial benches. Between the dedications will be a bit of *refamiliarization*.

Hope to see all on the 15th and 16th!

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

The next issue of the Rattlebone will be published the last week of December. Please get all articles, information, etc. to Joannie Duris by December 24th:

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(979) 928-5587 or jduris@rcn.com

MOUNTAIN MUSINGS

by Bill Gabriel

Ah... the Autumnal equinox, the coming of winter. I know it happens every year, but every year I look forward to the crisp days of Fall, the first mornings when you can see your breath, and the definitive changing of the seasons. Then the shocking reality sets in. Yikes, we could be skiing in two months!

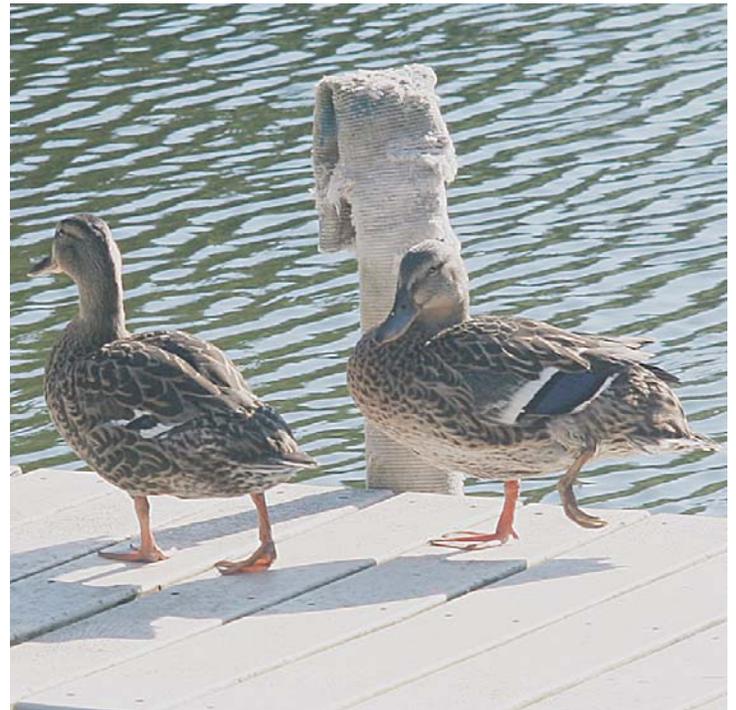
I know it's a long shot, but with the Red Sox winning the series last year I guess anything could happen. So let's see what's happening here at Northfield in preparation for the coming season.

The big news is that the Yurt is being removed from the vent shaft area and will be installed near the Visitor Center. Although no ground breaking has taken place yet, the move should occur in mid to late October.

We're anticipating having a different food vendor this year. I've been talking with a local bakery, and if all goes well, they will set up in the Yurt with delicious baked goods, soups and sandwiches. (Of course, if things don't go well it could be pirogues at the trailer again this season.)

Additionally, there's some of the normal fall trail work going on: edge pruning, trail grading and rock picking. A fresh load of wood was just delivered to the Chocolate Pot, and the deck was painted. New snowshoes and skis have been ordered. Hmmm, lets see, looks like we could be skiing in two months. Got snow?

See you all at the Refresher.



It wasn't just patrollers who stopped by for the Camp Wiyaka Weekend. After spying these feathered visitors Bob Duris commented, "Now we know what a *real* lame duck looks like."