



NEW HAMPSHIRE REGION

Biography

May 2016



Orest Ohar

Alpine Senior Patroller

New Hampshire Region Ski Patrol Staff Member

National Appointment #10816

Executive Summary:

Orest Ohar is an NSP member of Ragged Mountain Ski Patrol in Danbury NH and a member of the New Hampshire Region Staff. He began ski patrolling in 1986, and attained Alpine Senior Patroller in March 1991. In 1993, he became an Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor, a Senior OEC Trainer-Evaluator, and a Senior S&T Trainer-Evaluator, joining both the region's Ski & Toboggan Staff as well as the Senior OEC Staff.

The eighties and nineties represented a nationwide down-turn in Senior Program participation. When the new program was rolled out by NSP it took a decade of effort to rebuild its reputation. The new program required a larger training and testing commitment at a time when Patrol Directors were under pressure to staff their mountains with declining membership. Mr. Ohar took over the Senior S&T Program in the winter of 1999 and set it on a self-sustaining course of growth and success. He focused on recruiting staff, formalized Instructor development, created a broad based season calendar of teaching opportunities -- both senior and non-senior, and cultivated an environment with esprit de corps where self-motivated Instructors managed their self-paced volunteering schedules. His goal for re-building the training staff was to create an atmosphere that ensured its sustainability and self-perpetuation.

December 2004, Mr. Ohar joined the NH Region Instructor Development Staff, preparing NSP's future instructors. In 2008 he was awarded the highest leadership honor in the NSP system with National Appointment #10816.

He has continued to volunteer extra time on the NH Region board and is now seeking elective office for the vacant NH Region Norther Section Chief.

NSP Biography:

Orest Ohar joined Mount Brighton Ski Patrol just outside of Detroit Michigan as a Candidate Patroller on December 1st, 1986. He moved to New Hampshire where he signed on with the Temple Mountain Ski Patrol in October 1989.

Mr. Ohar passed the Senior Ski and Toboggan exam in early March 1990 at Cannon Mountain, NH. This exam was the first-year pilot roll-out event for the "new" Senior Program utilizing a new structure employing an objectives-based criteria and a 2-day testing format. He went on the next season to pass the Senior OEC exam at Shawnee



NEW HAMPSHIRE REGION

Biography May 2016



Peak, Maine and became an Alpine Senior Patroller in 1991. During the year 1993, Mr. Ohar became an OEC Instructor, became Eastern Division certified as a Senior S&T Trainer-Evaluator, and later in the year became a Senior OEC Trainer-Evaluator.

Temple Patrol Director Wayne Myers appointed Mr. Ohar as the “1994 Fall OEC Refresher” Instructor of Record. Mr. Ohar rejuvenated the process by bringing back the forgotten 6-pack approach to refreshers, providing the members with a novel stress-free learning and skill performance testing approach at all stations. He worked with the Temple Mtn. OEC instructors to spend 30 minutes of time structuring their stations with all six core teaching elements central to the NSP educational method. Each station was required to Set the stage, present the Objectives, Demonstrate the required skills, and then allow ample Guided Practice time for all participants, prior to Summarizing the objectives for reinforcement and Evaluating each participant’s performance.

The additional time allotted and the tight station structure kept all participating patrollers engaged. Feedback questionnaires from the Temple Mtn. members were overwhelmingly positive. Mr. Ohar ran the Temple Mountain refresher again in October of 1995. Positive refresher results from Temple Mountain were noticed by the Eastern Division OEC Education Committee and the best elements were rolled into division wide guidelines for structuring refreshers.

In April of 1998, NH Region Director, Bob Brown appointed Orest Ohar as the region’s Ski and Toboggan Program Advisor. The program had been experiencing low attendance numbers and low TE participation during much of the 1990’s, falling in line with existing nationwide trends. The outgoing Advisor expanded the program to include new, non-senior level training events. With an increased burden on the staff, Mr. Ohar took the reins of the S&T program determined to grow the staff to meet new calendar demands.

He began an ambitious recruiting campaign looking to develop a large TE staff. He formalized all senior and non-senior clinics and created a marketing and advertising campaign to promote the events around the state. Detailed metrics were employed to track participation. Feedback questionnaires were collected after all events. Staff member excitement and team spirit began to permeate the staff, as they saw their efforts rewarded with program success through enthusiastic participant feedback. Enough program momentum was developed to put NH Region’s S&T program on a self-sustaining course. Well enough that for one season when Mr. Ohar’s successor became absent, the senior events continued unsupervised.

In 2006 Mr. Ohar changed the senior exam from the more relaxed two-day Clinic-Evaluation format to a more compressed one-day evaluation-only style. To accomplish this he condensed the event and confined it to Cannon Mountain’s lower five slopes surrounding the Zoomer Chairlift. Maintaining a tight schedule, Mr. Ohar made the



NEW HAMPSHIRE REGION

Biography May 2016



short one-day exam work logistically by avoiding skier crowds and using the Park Service Headquarters conference room to cater lunch -- a feature that continues to this day.

In 2004 Mr. Ohar became an instructor on the NH Region's Instructor Development (ID) Staff under George Eker. Instructor Development is NSP's department that prepares future instructors by giving them a foundational understanding for effective adult learning. Mr. Eker was charged with rectifying the program's poor reputation of multiple ongoing event cancellations. This fit well with Mr. Ohar's philosophy and he vowed that even if only one NH patroller materialized seeking an ID course, that he would teach to a classroom of one.

Mr. Ohar's firm belief is that finding volunteers willing to become instructors needs to be nurtured at all costs to NH Region. Anybody who wants to put in the extra volunteering effort of becoming an Instructor in the NSP system should never be impeded by event cancellations. Mr. Ohar is dedicated to promoting this philosophy among all the educational departments of NH Region.

In 2014, Mr. Ohar created a Senior OEC "Pre-Course" with a curriculum that teaches students how to manage the stress of exam anxiety. The pre-course lays out a methodology of mastering the skills of emergency medical management. A four week series of indoor evening practice sessions follow the pre-course, allowing students an opportunity to master these techniques through guided practice. All of this is designed to augment the already existing Senior OEC training program which is based on practical outdoor snow based scenario training. Students get to develop management skills under stress-free, indoor conditions then perform their newly developed skills at the traditional outdoor scenario clinics.

As a member of the New Hampshire Region Staff, Mr. Ohar has integrated a dynamic database driven software course registration, event calendars and credit card fee collection system to the region's website. Feedback from members participating in educational events was also added to the website. The goal was to provide an automated means to attend courses with an anonymous form where members who were displeased with their course experience could provide feedback and complaints directly to NH Regional board members. New Hampshire region managers take such feedback seriously and implement corrective actions for all course failures brought to light.

On July 15, 2008, National Ski Patrol awarded Alpine Senior Patroller, Orest Ohar with National Appointment #10816 for his dedication to teaching in the NSP system and for his leadership in managing educational programs, and for mentoring new "up-and-coming" leaders within the New Hampshire Region.