



# YAWGOO VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE



October 2006

## YV SKI PATROL UPDATE

(Charlie Strobel – Patrol Director)

Can you believe summer is over already?!?! Snow is just around the corner and it looks like there will be some big changes at Yawgoo this year. First, we've got a large OEC class going on right now. There are a total of 16 students, including six challengers and four Junior Patrollers. We're now requiring returning Junior Patrollers to take the course if they want to continue in the program at Yawgoo. First-year Juniors do not need to go through the until their second year. Junior Patrollers completing the course will be treated as candidates, and listed with NSP as such, until they reach 18.

### *On the OEC Front:*

As you all know, OEC certification is not widely recognized outside of the ski industry. Buz Fowler, Jim Thevenet and I recently became certified as American Red Cross instructors. We can now offer patrollers the opportunity to challenge the ARC Professional First Responder course. This will entail taking a written exam. A practical is also required, but we can use our annual refresher to satisfy this requirement. The card is good for three years, after which you would simply need to challenge again. We can probably work this into our annual refresher. Professional First Responder is the highest level first aid course the American Red Cross offers, and is widely recognized. OECs and ARC Professional First Responders are welcome and encouraged to participate with our EMTs during off-season events.



**Some of our Yawgoo Instructors at the  
EMARI OEC Instructor Refresher**

On another note, as per our new ROA (Regional OEC Administrator), Dave Hemendinger, this year's EMARI OEC Enhancement Seminar will be held on Saturday, February 10th at Yawgoo Valley at 8:30am. It will continue until we've had enough! This year we'll be focusing on Injuries to the Head, Face, Neck, Back and Upper Extremities. Everyone is welcome and highly encouraged to attend.

### ***Area and Patrol Changes:***

A big change at Yawgoo is that helmets will no longer be required in the Terrain Park or on the rails. This change was decided upon by Max and Pati based on discussions with their insurance company. There are also changes planned in the physical layout of the ski area. As many of you know, the rope tow will be extended up another 50 feet or so. Lower Ledges is being widened and will be accessible from the rope tow. You'll also be able to access the lower portion of Yellow Jacket from the rope tow. The existing Terrain Park will be widened and used as a teaching area. Outback will also be widened and merged with TNT, and will be the site of the new Terrain Park. Operating hours will also change. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays the area will be open from 10 am until 8 pm. Evening lift tickets on these days will be valid from 4 till 8pm. Operating hours for the remainder of the week will not change from last year. We need to decide how to handle this new 4-8 shift. This leads us to a discussion of scheduling.

The way we've done it in the past is **extremely** labor-intensive for the person doing the scheduling. It generally takes at least 40 hours to complete. As far as I can tell, no other ski patrol schedules patrollers the way we have been doing. They all have "set" shifts, meaning one crew works every Monday night, another every Saturday morning, etc. We know this wouldn't work for those of you with variable work schedules. Our plan is to schedule as many patrollers as possible using "set" shifts. We'll then fill-in as needed using patrollers who cannot commit to a set shift per week. We're also hoping to go to four patrollers per shift. Realize we have a lot of candidates this year, but that's secondary. The major reason for this is a desire to increase our ability to respond to serious injuries. Imagine there are only 10 skiers on a weeknight. Two teenage boys race down an icy Outback, collide, and go flying into the woods hitting trees. You potentially have two serious head/spinal injuries. Three patrollers, even with help from a couple of area staff, would have a hard time with this. We would welcome feedback on this. Please email me at [charles.strobel@cox.net](mailto:charles.strobel@cox.net) with your comments or recommendations. We'll be having further discussions on this topic as the season approaches.

Along with set crews, we would also like to establish consistent Hill Captains for each shift. The responsibilities of the Hill Captain have increased over the past few years, and this is a position that needs to be focused on. Key responsibilities of the Hill Captain are ensuring emergency response to incidents are coordinated, that patrollers are on the hill, that hills issues are appropriately marked and most important that incident run forms are well documented. We have had several incidents this past year where the injured party sued the ski area and our documentation was wholly insufficient. The Hill Captain should review all incident documentation prior to the paperwork being filed. We will discuss this further at the refresher.

### ***National News:***

On the National front, NSP tried to raise dues an additional \$20, but that was shot down so dues will remain \$70, payable at the refresher. NSP has also tightened up on their OEC guidelines, changing "passing" for the written to 80% and tightening up on how we review students during the final practical. Lastly, NSP will be holding elections in the very near future for four board members. You all will receive information in the mail and via email. I highly recommend you

review the material and vote. A lot of people have worked very hard to get the organization to the point where each patroller really has a say.

***OEC Refresher:***

See you all at our annual refresher on Saturday November 4. CPR and lift evacuation training will be held the following day. If you can't make our refresher, please make sure you attend one at another patrol. Check the EMARI website ([www.emari.org](http://www.emari.org)) for dates, or search for courses at [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org).

**MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE**

This summer we participated in several key events, including the multi-day US LPGA championship in Newport. The YVSAR team's performance was outstanding and several thousands dollars of cash plus medical supplies were donated to the team. Given our very limited operating budget, your support was critical for making this happen. Thanks.

We also participated in the CVS run in early September. Again, the YVSAR team's performance was outstanding as illustrated in an email to the Run's director: *"I do not know if you are aware of this but a participant from yesterday's 5K was rushed to the medical tent and then to the hospital yesterday. His name was xxx xxxxx - Bib No. xxx. He is alright .... I want you to know that there was nothing but compliments from his family on how the emergency was treated and how his family (wife and children) were treated by the medical and race staff."*



For those who have not heard, we are now the owners of two John Deere medical Gators plus two large trailers that will be registered as non-transport medical aid stations. During the winter months



Inside of new trailer (not)

we'll be working on outfitting them. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. Check out the web page for pictures.

**WEB SITE UPDATED ([www.yvsar.org](http://www.yvsar.org))**

The YVSAR website ([www.yvsar.org](http://www.yvsar.org)) has been updated. Although parts are still under construction, you should check it out. The Ski Patrol section is now active. Please check this site routinely for news and information.

