

TOGGENBURG'S 50 YEARS WITH THE NATIONAL SKI PATROL

Before Toggenburg opened, the largest slopes in the Syracuse area were at hills owned by local ski clubs, or at Drumlins, or Syracuse University's Skytop. Most skiers had to travel to Snow Ridge near Turin or to the Adirondacks or Vermont for big-time skiing. The area traces its beginnings to 1953.

When Eugene Hickey, Frank Mueller and Harry Ehle started Toggenburg, a first aid patrol was formed. Soon, it was apparent the new patrol should meet national standards and have a national affiliation. So in 1958, the Toggenburg Ski Patrol registered with the National Ski Patrol System. The patrol had only seven members, a few of whom transferred from Drumlins and SU. The rest were newly trained.

In the early years, Toggenburg patrollers wore a distinctive red parka with a white cross and the words "Toggenburg Ski Patrol" in white script lettering across the front. Later, the patrol adopted the NSPS uniform rust parka. As the patrol celebrates 50 years with the NSP, it once again is in a red parka with National Ski Patrol insignia and a distinctive Toggenburg patrol patch. The patrol has grown to almost 50 members who meet standardized "Outdoor Emergency Care" and ski and toboggan training. As in many sports, skiing has inherent risks. It is a love for the sport and a desire to help fellow skiers that motivates the men and women of the Toggenburg Ski Patrol to volunteer.

Among the patrol's highlights over 50 years:

In December, 1974, patroller Paul Steiner received the NSPS Purple Merit Star for saving the life of a back injury patient on the Toggenburg slopes a year earlier.

In 1975, Toggenburg was one of the first rescue organizations in the nation to use the "Harrington Body Splint" for neck and back injuries. It was a gift from former Patrol Leader Kent Heacox in memory of his daughter.

In 1977, a Toggenburg Ski Patrol team won the Syracuse Section First Aid Competition.

In 1993, the patrol was the cover story in the NSP's national magazine.

Toggenburg's patrollers have served the NSP and the community with distinction over the years: The NSP's "Rusty" the St. Bernard mascot was developed by Toggenburg patroller Dick Charles. The late John Gardiner was so respected that a yearly Syracuse Section ski race in the late 1960s and early 1970s was named after him. Patroller Joe Mercurio travelled to New Zealand in 1969 and traded valuable information with patrols there. The late Dorothy Woessner served as Eastern Division registrar for many years and in 1981 was given one of the few honorary national appointments (#56) ever awarded. The late Bill Nealon served as an Assistant Division Director and division treasurer. Myla Greene was the Central New York Region Director. Les Borland Sr., Lynn Dodge, Myla Greene, Jeff Paston, Bernie Perry, Ed Siegenthaler, and the late Jack Woodruff all served as Syracuse Section chiefs. Paul Steiner has served as both section and region treasurer for more than 25 years. Kay Seibert was a section public relations advisor, and Ellie White was a mountaineering advisor. A few patrollers even served as patrol leaders at other areas before coming to Toggenburg: Al Chartrand (Mystic Mt.), Donald DeSalvia (SU), Harold Fraedenburg (Mystic Mt.), John Gardiner (SU), Myla Greene (SU and Intermont), Martha and Richard Loew (SU), Gary Litvin (Mystic Mt.), Paul Martellock (Clarkson-Seven Springs), Kay Seibert (Intermont), Larry VanAlstyne (Drumlins), and Jack Woodruff (Drumlins; Jack also owned the Drumlins Ski School and operated the ski area for many years).

Concurrent with celebration of the patrol's registration with the NSP for 50 years in 2008, member Phil Resch also celebrated his 50th season as a patroller.

Patrol Leaders

1958-60	Joseph Creegan	1993-99	Bill Goode
1960-61	Leslie Borland Sr.	1999-01	Craig Collins
1961-62	Jack Woodruff	2001-06	Cindy Hoalcraft
1962-65	Phillip Resch	2006-07	Rich Tordoff
1965-66	Jack E. Middleton	2007-	Geff Dennee
1966-69	Leslie Borland Jr.		
1969-70	Ronald Smith		
1970-71	Kent Heacox		
1971-72	Volker Weiss		
1972-74	Bruce Heukrath		
1974-75	Donald DeSalvia		
1975-77	Paul Steiner		
1977-80	Gerald Mahoney		
1980-82	Scott Manuel		
1982-84	Lynn Dodge		
1984-86	Nancy Carroll		
1986-88	Robert Triggs		
1988-93	Ed Siegenthaler		

National Appointments

856	John Gardiner	(1947)
2448	Jack Woodruff	(1961)
2814	Les Borland Sr.	(1965)
2815	Myla Greene	(1965)
3135	Phil Resch	(1967)
3227	Leslie Borland Jr.	(1968)
3228	Bill Nealon	(1968)
3639	Ron Smith	(1970)
3922	Hume Laidman	(1971)
4233	Bernie Perry	(1973)
5338	Volker Weiss	(1978)
5382	Jeff Paston	(1978)
5383	Dean Ottaway	(1978)
5759	Jerry Mahoney	(1980)
6278	Lynn Dodge	(1984)
6279	Paul Steiner	(1984)
7501	Bruce Heukrath	(1992)
7690	Ed Siegenthaler	(1993)

1958-2008