

Fall 2008

*Change is inevitable;  
Growth is optional*

# Southern New York Region



## Ski and Toboggan News

### Facts:

- 79% Success Rate on the Senior S&T Evaluation since 1992.
- The Success Rate increases to 90% when 2nd attempts are included
- 2008—73% (8/11) pass rate on SNY Senior S&T Evaluation, with one partial pass and 2 unsuccessful (18%)

### Dates:

<b>Instructor Refresher</b> Belleayre	12/14
<b>Toboggan Enhancement—Belleayre</b>	1/24
<b>Skier Enhancement</b> Belleayre	1/25
<b>Toboggan Enhancement—Plattekill</b>	2/21
<b>Skier Enhancement</b> Plattekill	2/22
<b>Senior S&amp;T Evaluation—Belleayre</b>	3/14

### Reflection

Sitting in my car I looked up at a very large, intimidating, glistening (translation=icy) wind-blown mountain and wondered what in the world was I getting into. I started to cry and asked my mom to take me home. She didn't. It was 1988 at Cannon Mountain and it was my first TE Evaluation. I am glad I didn't leave as it was when I first became a S&T Trainer Evaluator...20 years ago. I have been the SNY Regional S&T Advisor since 1991 and have enjoyed almost every minute of that experience, but now it is time to step down as RA....



Snow is coming soon!

The Senior Ski and Toboggan program has evolved and changed in many ways since 1988. At that time, the days of ski courses and tests (whose completion depended upon how well a patroller performed in the morning) were coming to an end. Performance objectives (observable, measurable) were established to describe both skiing and toboggan handling skills needed for patrolling. These perform-

ance-based objectives were created in order to AVOID subjective evaluation. No longer was the word "test" allowed. A 2-day clinic/evaluation became the norm for "Senior" evaluations. These clinic/evaluations included a teaching and learning component. The teaching skills addressed in Phase I (now Instructor Development) needed to be included in these clinics. Scoring moved from a 1-10 system to a +,=-, system (yes, it moved back to 1-10). As the Senior program was evolving, the word "snowplow" was taken out of the S&T vocabulary and replaced with the "wedge". National wanted to remove the snowplow..oops, wedge, from the requirements to running a sled. Eastern Division did not support this idea as using this technique is an integral part of running sleds in the East. Low and behold, the "wedge" continued to be a requirement and once again, it is what it is....a snowplow (love it, hate it, it is here to stay).

In order to support the performance objectives for skiing and toboggan handling and establish consistency across divisions, "Enhancement Seminars" were created. PSIA Instructors became instrumental in teaching/training the objectives relating to skiing. Feedback became an integral part of any ski and toboggan program. Patrollers needed to know how they were performing based on the objectives throughout an event.

(Con't page 2)

### Myths and Facts

**Myth:** 50% pass/fail rate within the Region for Senior Ski and Toboggan Evaluations.

**Myth:** Patrollers take 3-4 or more times to pass the Senior S&T

**Myth:** Southern Catskill Section patrollers in general are not successful with S&T

**Myth:** Trainer/Evaluators make decisions based on style.

**Fact:** since 1992 there has been a 79% pass rate on the first attempt at the Senior S&T Evaluation. This increases to a 90% pass rate when 2nd attempts are included.

**Fact:** From 1993-2007 there is no documented patroller from the SNT Region who has taken the S&T evaluation more than 3 times. In addition, there is no documented patroller who has not been successful after 3 attempts.

(Con't page 3)

### Reflection con't

Demographics and patroller needs have changed over time. Snowboarding has become a recognized snow sport. The number of patrollers using snowboards and telemark skis has increased dramatically. 2-Day clinic/evaluations have reverted to one-day evaluations with a requirement that clinics (Enhancement Seminars) or a Patroller School is attended. These Enhancement Seminars have expanded to Snowboarding, Tele –Skiing and



Patrollers make a difference

clinics designed specifically for women. The SNY Region has had years where there have been 15-20 participants at a Senior Evaluation and there have been years with only 3 participants. We have had participation in Senior S&T Evaluations from almost every patrol in the Region over the years. Participation would not have been possible if it were not for the support and dedication from every Patrol Director, encouraging patrollers to improve their skills.

The patrollers involved in any S&T program here in the Region have been wonderful.

Thank you to every patroller who has participated in a SNY Region Ski and Toboggan program. You are the reason I have done this for so long. Your participation has been appreciated and your commitment respected. You have helped make my experience truly enjoyable. Thank you for my wonderful memories!

John Neill - past SNY Region S&T Advisor and past Eastern Division Ski and Toboggan Advisor... thank you... for recognizing my potential and encouraging me to expand my patrolling horizons. Without your encouragement, I would not have considered becoming a Senior Trainer/Evaluator. (continued below)

Balance

Pressure

Edge

Rotary

BERP

### More Reflection

Jeff Gilbert, Bruce Calligaro and John Pupolo-past SNY Region Directors– words cannot express how much I have appreciated your support of the Ski and Toboggan program. You allowed the program to change and grow as it needed. Thank you!

The Ski and Toboggan program would not be as successful as it has been if it were not for the phenomenal SNY Region Ski and Toboggan Trainer/Evaluator staff including Joe Strauss, Mike McGinnis, Tony

Coneski, Mike Wettstein and Bill Weiss. Previous S&T staff members include Diana Calligaro (whose training and leadership has been invaluable to me), Jim Bodie, Mike Sarrubi, Peter Choate, Deiter Becker, Ken Wright, John Kamien, Rudy Harbauer and Fred Raff. The Regional S&T program would not have happened if it were not for your involvement. Thank you just isn't enough. I couldn't have done it without you.

(con't below)

Not only has the SNY S&T staff been dedicated to our programs but the New Jersey Region S&T Trainer/Evaluators have as well. Our two Regions have worked together every year since the mid-1990's, both in training and during evaluations. Their support has been an asset to our Region and I hope the relationship will continue to grow. Chris Broderson, Jeff Haines, Don Duthaler, Steve Devine, Becky Burnside and most recently, Andy Byra and Vinnie Zinno– your support, availability and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

Our Region has also benefitted from the perseverance of our Toboggan Instructors. These instructors have supported changes and shared information at the patroller level. Some of you have been with me since the beginning. I looked forward to our gathering in December. I hope each one of you continues to support the S&T program. Perhaps some of you may even decide to pursue T/E...go for it! I feel proud for having such wonderful patrollers (people) as a part of the Region Ski and Toboggan staff. (page3)



SNY Toboggan Instructors; Past and Present

Bob Hamilton, Rich Parrish, Keith Anser, Roger Carlson, Mike Cipperly, John St. Amand, Jeff Gilbert, Jim Bodie, Ric Bogaslaw, Aiva Drukovics, Jerry Rohling, John Puppolo, Bob Carlson, Selby Feldman

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During my tenure as Region Advisor, Senior ski and toboggan events have been held at Windham, Plattekill, and Belleayre. For the past 8-10 years the SNY Region has been able to rely on Belleayre Mountain and its' Patrol Director, Joe Strauss, for hosting Senior Evaluations and Enhancement Clinics. The mountain has strived to maintain excellent snow conditions and the S&T program has benefitted from that desire. For the most part we have had dependable, safe and sometimes even perfect snow conditions for events (and yes, we have also had rain). Belleayre has also graciously provided the Region with Level II and Level III PSIA Instructors for events at no cost to the Region. Patrollers from other mountains both

within this Region and throughout the Division have commented on the hospitality provided by Belleayre during these various S&T events. That hospitality has had a lasting impression on many patrollers. Joe, Thank you for the many years of support—I couldn't have done it with out you!!

More recently, Plattekill has hosted both Skiing and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars. The patrollers, Trainer/Evaluators and Instructors who have participated in these events have had a blast. Any synonym that you



Is it Snowing yet?

can think of that describes fun, describes our experiences at Plattekill! Plattekill has also provided PSIA Instructors for events at no cost to the Region. Bim (Ashford) and Bob (Leonard) - Thank you for opening the doors at Plattekill. I hope the S&T relationship will continue to grow.

Patrol Directors-you are the leaders who encourage patrollers to improve their skills and allow them to attend events, while at times, leaving you short-handed at your respective mountains. Thank you for supporting your patrollers and the S&T programs. I am honored to have worked with your for such a long period of time.

Final Thoughts.....

As I stated in the beginning of this reflection, it is time for me to step down as Ski and Toboggan Advisor. This decision has not come easily, nor without a few tears. I strongly believe that it is the relationships between each of us as patrollers that is a priority for the Region. The feeling of supporting one another, working together and respecting each program for its strengths and weaknesses brings us together as patrollers and as a Region. It should not be dividing us. Although we belong to individual patrols, we

are joined together by a common thread...we are NSP members. We believe in helping others for the greater good. The S&T program here in the Region has been proven to be successful through accountability and statistics, yet it continues to be undermined and not respected by the current leadership. I strongly believe that the SNY Region has talented, capable, responsible patrollers who can become involved at the Region level. It is time that those who have been in place for way too long, move over and tap

into the talent that is beneath our noses. I have exhausted my options as being a part of the solution as the S&T Advisor. This undermining has not improved the program nor has it reflected well upon us as a Region. It is time for someone to step in who can enact a positive change and assist the S&T program in moving forward, not backward. But in reality, it is not the S&T program that is having difficulty... Transparency, clarity and truth will repair relationships.

I will miss you all tremendously!

-Kim

Dear Dad,

You have been there since the beginning... from my first time with a sled in the bumps (with a SunValley sled, what were you thinking?) to your first time outside the handles in the bumps (one year ago). You never pushed and you let me decide for myself my options with patrolling. You never insisted that I follow in your footsteps either. I only hope I make 50 years as you have.

I love you!

Kim

Myths and Facts continued



Lead Follow or Get out of the way!

Only 4% of the patrollers who have been unsuccessful are anticipated not to return to the program.

**Fact:** The pass rates for the Southern Catskill section are consistent with the pass rates of the Northern Catskill section.

**Fact:** Performance based objectives are used when scoring both toboggan handling and skiing skills.

**Conclusion:** High success rates and low participation rates do not correlate. Low participation rates are not due to success rates.

-Perceived high fail rate leading to a low return rate is false.

-Statements indicating low pass rate and unfair evaluations being spread (not by those who have participated in the program) have had a negative impact overall.

-The statistics and facts show that the Senior S&T program is not so difficult that patrollers "can not pass"

**Keys to success:** Training, Training, Desire and Training



## Southern NY Region

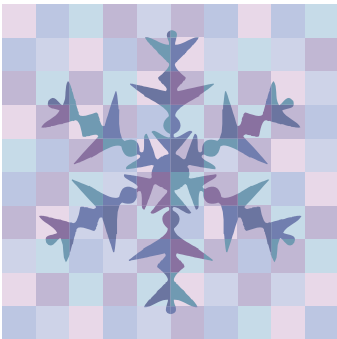
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*Pre-registration is required at least one week prior to an event. Pre-register for Regional S&T events, please email me.*

*Participation in the Senior S&T Evaluation requires Patrol Director authorization in writing.*

*If any patroller is planning on taking the Senior S&T Evaluation outside of the SNY Region due to scheduling conflicts...written authorization from the Regional S&T Advisor is required prior to registering, as well as PD approval.*



## Programs

**Skier Enhancement**—designed to provide patrollers with specific instruction/techniques to ski more efficiently as well as identify individual strengths and weaknesses. The goal is to improve overall skiing skills. Instruction is provided by a PSIA Level III instructor. It is typically a one-day event.

**Toboggan Enhancement**—designed to provide patrollers with techniques to become more efficient at running sleds. Strengths and weaknesses are identified and exercises for skill improvement are provided.

**Telemark Enhancement**—combines the goals of both the skier enhancement and toboggan enhancement and specifically targets patrollers on telemark skis. This is typically a 2-day event.

**Snowboard Enhancement**—combines the goals of both the skier enhancement and the toboggan enhancement and specifically targets

patrollers on snowboards. This is typically a 2-day event.

**Women's Enhancement**—combines the goals of both the skier enhancement and toboggan enhancement yet specifically targets women patrollers. This is typically a 2-day event.

**Patrollers School**—combines the goals of both the skier enhancement and toboggan enhancement to encourage patrollers of any skill ability to improve their skills. This is typically a 2-day event.

Please look to both the Region and Division calendars for event locations and dates.



**Point out a great strength of someone in your life today**