

## History of the Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol



1976 The Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol (IFNSP) was formed by Marty Huebner, Evan Tibbott, Chuck Kempner, and Bill Radtke. Note. Marty Huebner (2016) and Chuck Kempner (2021) were elected into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame

1982 Harriman State Park was dedicated in July 1982. Staff and volunteers worked to establish user trails. Patrollers were invited to set trails and blue diamond markers for cross-country skiers, including Thurmon Ridge, Silver Lake, Ranch Compound, and Henry's Fork.

About 1985 The Patrol hosted a casual fundraiser at the York Grange Hall. The patrol hired a DJ with assorted Oldies dance music. The attendance was about 150. The outcome was barely breakeven. Other ideas for fundraisers were considered. For a couple seasons, the patrollers agreed to skip fundraisers altogether and simply increase the membership dues by \$50 each to cover the patrol costs for radios and batteries.

About 1990 Patrol worked with Harriman management to formalize an agreement for the IFNSP to patrol at the Harriman State Park Cross country ski trails. A work schedule and signup sheet was developed to track patrol duties. The patrol duty commitment was eight (8) patrol days per patroller. The patrol bylaws were written to formalize the IFNSP duties. The patrol supported Harriman events such as the annual Free Ski Day that is usually held on the first Saturday in January.

1997 The patrol researched options to host a screening of the traveling Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. The Idaho Falls Ski Club Board of Directors agree to purchase 100 tickets in advance (\$1000 value). The Ski Club used the Banff tickets for prize drawings, social events, ski trips, and as expressions of gratitude to the Board members and Ski Club supporters. The Idaho Alpine Club donated \$250 for support. The Intermountain Division Board agreed to provide a \$1500 loan as a deposit to secure the Banff contract. Note: The patrol sold enough Banff tickets to repay the IMD loan in full.

1998 The patrol prepared to host its first screening of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. The event was held at the Eagle Rock Middle School auditorium (seating capacity about 500). Attendance was about 330. All costs were covered and left a \$1000 net profit. The proceeds were used to make improvements on the 8x10 foot historic warming hut donated by the Harriman Park Staff. The patrol used the warming hut as a public shelter and patrol outpost.

2000 The newly restored Colonial Theater opened its performing arts season in 2000. The patrol rented the Colonial theater (seating capacity about 970) to present the Banff show. Attendance was about 550. Proceeds were used to purchase patrol supplies and radios. Marty and Clarke attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival in Banff Alberta Canada. They met and exchanged ideas with filmmakers, adventurers, authors, musicians, and fellow Banff Festival Tour Hosts.

About 2000      The first annual Haunts of Harriman event was held on the Saturday night before Halloween. Nearly 100 volunteers in costume arrived early to set up displays, ghosts, witches, and decorations. Treats were handed out at a dozen locations in the Ranch Compound. The Harriman staff provided a pre-event thank you meal to welcome the helpers. Safety measures and logistics were confirmed and coordinated with the ski patrollers. Radio contact was maintained for parking, candy resupply and possible safety needs or lost and found items.

2002      Salt Lake Winter Olympics Nordic ski races were held at Soldier Hollow Ski Resort near Heber, UT. Eight Patrollers (Jerry Jensen, Dr. Dan Smith, Dave Conner, Dana Wood, Paul Henslee, Doug Pace, Elton Modroo, and Clarke Kido) signed up for duties at Soldier Hollow. Clarke also signed up for patrol duty to work at the Paralympics. Note: In late 2002 Jerry Jensen was honored as the National Outstanding Nordic Patroller of 2002.

About 2005      Patrol began holding their patrol meetings at the Development Workshop. The patrol brought food (usually pizza) to serve at the meetings. In gratitude for the use of the meeting rooms, the patrol made donations to the Development Workshop.

2009      The patrol hosted its first sold out Banff show. The unbroken string of sold out shows continued from 2009 to 2020 prior to the 2020 Covid pandemic.

2014      The patrol approved a grant proposal (\$12,000) submitted by Harriman State Park to allow them to purchase a 20 foot yurt. In return for the donation, Harriman Park and the Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation contributed materials, equipment and labor to prepare the site, build the platform base, assemble the yurt, install a wood stove, and provide furnishings (bunkbeds, table and chairs, lantern). The yurt was open to the public for day use during the ski season. The patrollers were allowed to stay overnight in the yurt. During the summer the yurt was available for rental by the general public.

2015      The patrol hosted two Banff shows, both of which were sold out.

2017      The patrol received the Runner-up Award for the National Outstanding Nordic Patrol of 2017

2018      The patrol hosted the Intermountain Division meeting at Harriman. The patrol received the Runner-up Award for the National Outstanding Nordic Patrol of 2018.

2019      The Patrol hosted three Banff Shows at the Colonial Theater, one show was sold out in advance, while the other two shows were between 85% and 95% sold. The patrol approved a grant application which allowed the Bonneville School District 93 to purchase 50 sets of skis, boots, poles and bindings, shared by nearly 500 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The equipment purchase was coordinated with Idaho Mountain Trading. The teachers were instructed on basic skiing techniques. The tracks were groomed in the areas surrounding the schools. The District 93 ski program coordinators stored the ski gear in a trailer that was transported to the participating schools. In addition a separate grant application for 12 sets of ski gear was approved for the Lighthouse Montessori School.

2021      Due to the rampant Covid pandemic, the Banff Festival management chose to cancel the World Tour and offer the Banff shows only as virtual on line entertainment packages with different films. There was no World Tour road warrior to introduce the films or to host the shows at a local theater screening. The patrol created a website [www.ifnsp.org](http://www.ifnsp.org) that was used to sell Banff tickets, promote patrol events and Nordic ski trails that are within 110 miles of Idaho Falls. The patrol offered the virtual Banff shows, knowing that the proceeds would be minimal. It was more important for the patrol to maintain contact with the community supporters.

2022    The Banff shows were offered as entertainment packages and streamed to the tour hosts. The patrol hosted three shows at the Colonial Theater with about 50% attendance. The patrol hosted the Intermountain Division Senior OEC Examinations at Harriman. The patrol, volunteers and media participated in the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary rededication of Harriman State Park. In the Fall of 2022, the patrol was awarded the honor of National Outstanding Nordic Patrol of 2022.

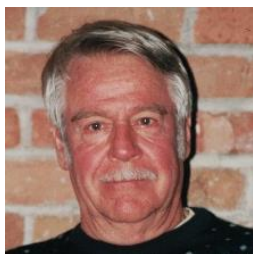
2023    The Banff shows were prepared as entertainment packages and streamed to the hosts. The patrol hosted three shows at the Colonial with about 70% attendance.

### **National Awards and Significant Achievements**

Marty Huebner	National Nordic Advisor; National Alumni Advisor; Hall of Fame (2016)
Chuck Kempner	Hall of Fame (2021)
Sal Mascarenas	National Certified Program Director (2022 to current)
Jerry Jensen	National Outstanding Nordic Patroller of 2002
Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol	National Outstanding Nordic Patrol of 2022, Runner Up Award (2017, 2018)



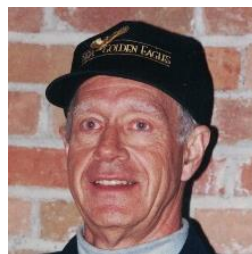
## PATROL FOUNDERS (1976)



Marty Huebner



Evan Tibbott

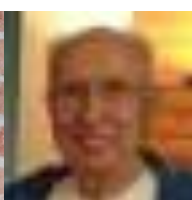
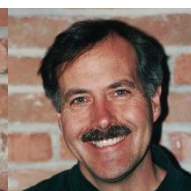
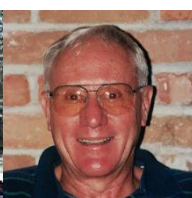
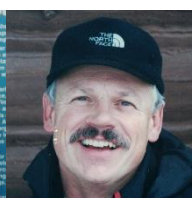
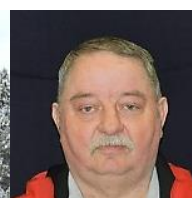
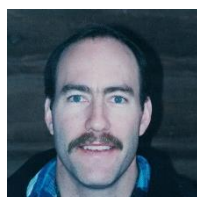
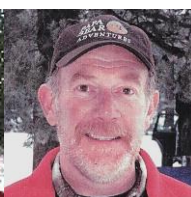
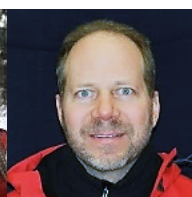


Bill Radtke



Chuck Kempner

## PATROL DIRECTORS

Chuck Kempner  
1975, 1976Bill Radtke  
1977, 1978Joe Gasidlo  
1979John Ryskamp  
1980Bill Vroman  
1981Christine Wilson  
1982Clarke Kido  
1983Jim Peavler  
1984Pegge McGuire  
1985Jim Anderson  
1986Jim Jones  
1987Dale Claflin  
1988Paul Henslee...  
1989, 1990Bill Becker  
1991, 1992Mike O'Bleness...  
1993Dan Henry  
1994Jerry Jensen  
1995, 1996Alan Donaldson  
1997, 1998Gretchen Matthern  
1999, 2002, 2003Dana Wood  
2000, 2001Elton Modroo  
2004, 2005David Conner  
2006, 2007Reed Williams  
2008, 2009Lew Frye  
2010, 2011Dave Schoonen  
2012Trevor Turpin  
2013, 2014Steve Galbraith  
2015Amy Kaser  
2016, 2017Scott Lee  
2018 to 2021Mike Albanese  
2022Ryan George  
2023

### Public and Community Service

Public and Community Service are a vital part of this Patrol. The members of the Patrol volunteer their knowledge and skills with other local groups throughout the year. These include providing first aid training for scouts, offering community CPR training, patrolling at mountain bike races, teaching CPR in local high schools, volunteering for blood drives, picking up trash along highways, supporting search and rescue, and supplying first aid for music festivals, mountain trail runs, local marathons and horseback trips.

The Patrol supports a wide variety of public and community activities that promote and educate attendees on how to have safe outdoor experiences. Events with significant patroller involvement are noted below.

- The Patrol sponsors an annual Avalanche Safety event presented by avalanche experts (audience was about 400 in 2021).
- Each year the Patrol offers advice on equipment, locations of Nordic ski trails, parking and use maps, grooming reports, and winter safety at the local Ski Club's annual two-day sale (10 patrollers and about 1000 shoppers attended the sale in 2021).
- The Patrol offers "learn to ski" beginner lessons at the annual State Park Free Ski Day (6 Patrollers, 200 visitors in 2021).
- The 2019 Ski with the Patrol Day (6 Patrollers, 80 participants) was led by a Patroller with PSIAA certification. The Patrollers instructed new skiers on the proper and safe practices of the sport, including gear selection, how to dress and what emergency equipment to carry. Several Patrollers hold or have held PSIA (Alpine and Nordic) certifications.
- In 2021, three moonlight ski tours were held on the Park trails (averaging 4-7 Patrollers and 15-20 participants).
- The Patrol supports the annual Park Halloween Haunts (attended by 2000 visitors and 10 Patrollers in Oct 2021).
- In 2022, 10 Patrollers were on hand to provide first aid for the annual "Moose-on-the-Loose" winter triathlon, where 32 participants raced on skis, snowshoes, fat-tire bikes.
- In 2021 and 2022, several Nordic Patrollers are helping volunteers keep an old alpine ski hill in a remote area open to the public. This alpine ski hill is run completely by volunteers and have a suggested \$10 donation for lift tickets.
- In 2021, the Patrol conducted three ski education field trips with about 100 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from several elementary schools.
- The Patrol's annual fundraiser is a three-night screening of the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour. The Jan 2022 event was attended by nearly 2000. Also present were 16 exhibits representing recreation user groups, conservation, search and rescue, dog sled, public safety, and two University Outdoor programs of which one is for adaptive athletes. The patrol staffed a safety booth that promoted the NSP Safety Programs, provided educational stickers, and awarded over 1,500 safety buffs to those who completed the training.

The many volunteer hours, financial assistance and knowledge and skills shared by this patrol has enriched community events and increased visibility and awareness for Nordic skiing.





## Gold Unit Citation Award for National Outstanding Nordic Patrol of 2022 IDAHO FALLS NORDIC SKI PATROL

