

# A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER



*NSP 75th Anniversary Gala  
promises to offer something for everyone*

BY CANDACE HORGAN

Reaching your 75th birthday is something that until quite recently in human history was exceedingly rare. Even today, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the life expectancy for the average person is barely more than that, at 77.5 years. For businesses, that statistic is much lower; according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 56 percent of businesses fail within the first four years of existence. Yet the National Ski Patrol, an organization with no real models to draw from prior to its founding in 1938 by Charles Minot “Minnie” Dole, will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2013.

You only get one opportunity to get something of this magnitude right, and the National Ski Patrol staff, as well as countless NSP volunteers from around the country, is working to do just that, creating a program for a memorable 75th gala event to be held in Denver, Colo., January 31 through February 3, 2013, in conjunction with the SIA Snow Show tradeshow. There will be a museum exhibit, ribbon-cutting ceremony, ski days, and, of course, an unforgettable gala dinner event on Saturday night, February 2. If you haven't booked your reservation for this once-in-a-lifetime event, now is the time to do so. Here is just a sampling of what NSP has planned to make its 75th Anniversary a must-attend event.

## GALA DINNER

On Saturday night, February 2, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Anniversary Gala sit-down dinner will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt in Denver. Formal wear is suggested for this event. Attendees at the event can participate in a silent auction, listen to a keynote speaker (yet to be determined), and show off NSP pride to industry partners, friends, and family. There will be an open bar for beer and wine and a cash bar for mixed drinks at the event.

For the silent auction, Marketing Director Melanie Hood and Assistant Marketing Director David Frick have reached out to many different companies and sponsors for gear and other items to bid on. As of now, they have secured over 100 different items from over 50 companies, including several NSP exclusive items, such as NSP 75th Anniversary skis by Grace Skis. Additional auction items include ski weekend getaways. NSP will also be auctioning some items for the event through eBay so that those who do not attend the gala can participate, but there will be several exclusives at the dinner itself.

For the keynote speaker, the committee has been working on several different selections, and will be announcing the speaker on the NSP website in early November. In addition to the keynote address, others will be speaking on the NSP's historical and future significance, and there will be a recognition of long-serving members of the organization.

## SKI DAYS

You can't have a 75th Anniversary of the National Ski Patrol without some sort of skiing component. In fact, attendees have the choice of one or two skiing options provided by the NSP.

## NATIONAL DAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

National Day is an annual event at Ski Cooper to celebrate patrollers. It features a variety of fun activities, such as blindfolded toboggan races (the tail-roper has to direct the person in the horns with voice commands!), a one-legged slalom race, team races, and an end-of-day pig roast in nearby Leadville, during which fun awards from the day's events will be given out. NSP is making attendance at National Day easy by chartering transportation to and from the Grand Hyatt for the day. Breakfast will be served on the bus ride up, which leaves the hotel at 7 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m.

Cost for the day with transportation and lift ticket is only \$48, while the cost for the day for those who prefer to drive up on their own is only \$20. Additionally, guest lift tickets can be purchased for only \$16.

## SKI WINTER PARK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

If you haven't gotten enough skiing in at National Day, NSP is offering a second ski day at Winter Park, a popular ski area close to Denver that offers everything from wide-open blue cruisers to endless expert bump runs that will test any skier's mettle. Winter Park also has a high alpine bowl with lots of intermediate bowl and tree skiing. Again, breakfast will be provided on the bus ride up, which leaves the Grand Hyatt at 7 a.m. and returns at 6:30 p.m. A lunch will be provided as well if you are among the first 150 guests to sign up. The lunch will be served by the Winter Park Young Adult Patrol (with proceeds going back to the Winter Park Young Adult Patrol) at one of three locations on the hill.

For those who attend the gala dinner, the cost for a full day of skiing with transportation (a \$130 value!), is only \$55! If you wish to drive up on your own, cost for the day is only \$35. For those who did not attend the gala dinner, the cost with transportation is only \$98, or \$78 without transportation.

## SIA EXHIBIT

One of the goals of the 75th Anniversary celebration is to promote the good work that the NSP has done and continues to do to our industry partners, the media, and the public. As part of this effort, NSP will have an historical exhibit at the SIA Snow Show tradeshow. The exhibit will be set up in a prominent location at the Colorado Convention Center that all Snow Show attendees will walk past on their way into the tradeshow.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL SKI PATROL EXHIBIT

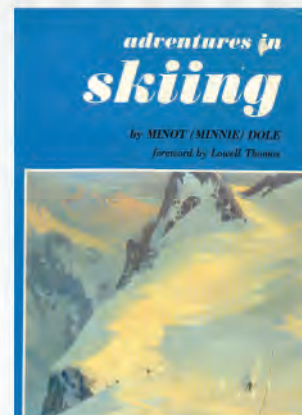
As conceived by the 75th Anniversary Exhibit Committee chaired by board member John Lawson, and with the extensive assistance of National Historian Rick Hamlin, former National Awards Adviser Hart Axley, former Assistant National Director Ken Bradford, and staff member Rachel Crane, the exhibit will be an interactive, walk-through history with many different items of historical interest, such as old patrol belts, skis, and toboggans, as well as current skis, boots, medical equipment, and other gear. Two mannequins, one with one of the first NSP patrol uniforms and one with a 10th Mountain Division uniform, will be part of the exhibit. Vintage photos and many current and older videos will be included in the exhibit as well. The exhibit will be officially celebrated with a cocktail hour ribbon-cutting ceremony that is expected to draw many Snow Show attendees and local media on Thursday, January 31, at 5 p.m.

## LODGING

NSP has a block of 100 rooms at the Grand Hyatt with a 30 percent discounted lodging price of \$165 per night for a double room that can accommodate up to four guests for the event (price is \$190 for three guests and \$215 for four). The Grand Hyatt is located right by the SIA Snow Show tradeshow, and is also the departure point for the bus on the ski days Friday and Sunday. To take advantage of the discounted lodging offered NSP members for the 75th Anniversary event, visit the "75th Anniversary Event" page on the NSP website and click "75th Weekend Events." Super Shuttle offers transportation to the Grand Hyatt from Denver International Airport for only \$40 roundtrip. There are many other lodging options in nearby downtown Denver as well.

## BOOKS

In the winter of 2012, Ken Bradford, an alumni patroller and former assistant national director from Colorado, reached out to Tim White and Candace Horgan at the national office with a suggestion for reprinting both Gretchen Besser's comprehensive NSP history book, *The National Ski Patrol: Samaritans of the Snow*, and Minnie Dole's autobiography, *Adventures in Skiing*. Bradford contacted a local Denver book publisher regarding printing the books in limited quantities, then reached out to Besser to see what she thought of the idea, as well as her possibly writing an epilogue to her tome that covered recent history. In a way, the experience for Besser was reminiscent of the conception of her book some 35 years ago.



"More than 35 years ago, I had the good fortune as a basic patroller to attend an International Ski Patrol Symposium in Switzerland where I met, among other top brass, Assistant National Director Ken Bradford," says Besser. "Because I considered the NSP an extraordinary organization of dedicated people, devoting countless hours to helping others in the most basic, hands-on fashion, I wanted to do something significant and original for the NSP beyond earning my Senior, Circle A, and Circle M patches and instructing American Red Cross Basic First Aid, something for which, as an academic and author of two previous books, I felt appropriately qualified. I wanted to write a book about the National Ski Patrol. With Ken's advocacy, the board sanctioned the project in 1978 and named me national historian. When I retired from my post in January 2010, Ken spoke at the ceremony honoring me with the first National Chairman's Excellence in Service Award, which I cherish. It was Ken who came up with the idea of reprinting my book because, in his words, every ski patroller should know and be proud of our history. Singlehandedly, Ken scouted out a publisher, convinced the NSP board, and persuaded



me to go along. Ken is the single most important person behind this project. His vision and perseverance have brought it to fruition.

“Writing *The National Ski Patrol: Samaritans of the Snow*, for publication in 1983 was a labor of love. It took five years from start to finish. I interviewed hundreds of patrol-ers around the country while continuing to pursue my professional teaching career. In contrast to the leisurely pace of that initial endeavor, composing an epilogue to the forthcoming reprint meant condensing 30 years into 10 pages within six weeks from board approval to dead-line. The update is, of necessity only, a timeline of change, a sweeping overview of experience, experiment, and progress. Always, the patroller on the hill is the hero. As the National Ski Patrol celebrates its diamond anniversary – 75 years of selfless service to the skiing and riding public – we patrollers are proud to be part of its distinguished history and heritage. May we and our successors always be there to serve.”

Dole’s book is a unique, first-person account not only of his own early adventures in skiing, but of the founding of both the NSP and the 10th Mountain Division and the importance of those organizations to the growth of skiing.

Dole writes, “My little bouts of skiing in childhood pre-saged a much greater adventure in skiing for me than childhood skiing did for most other people. There was no way I could have foretold that I would be in a great skiing quest for adventure; that I would be on skis for most of a lifetime; and that I would originate one of the world’s great skiing organizations as well as help move the United States government to the realization that skiing is an art of war. I could not foresee that I would subsequently establish a system that was to rescue hurt and lost skiers from one coast of this country to the other, saving limbs and, yes, lives, and, further, that I was to be victim and rescuer in ski adventures myself and that I would eventually be asked for advice as an authority in the ski world. If all this sounds pretty self-centered, let me say that I never took myself that seriously. But I took skiing very, very seriously. I had fun, but I also wanted much more for the sport than for it to remain a fad or craze. And I think that the organizations to which I refer, the Tenth Mountain Division and the National Ski Patrol, had a great deal to do with making skiing a popular sport rather than something for a group of ‘in’ people.”

Both books will be available for purchase in limited

quantities at the 75th Anniversary Gala dinner and in the NSP *Winter Catalog*, and Gretchen Besser will be on hand to sign copies of her book for those who purchase it at the dinner.

## GEAR

Marketing Director Melanie Hood and Product and Sales Manager Josh Jacobson have worked with Grace Skis and Surface Skis on special NSP 75th Anniversary skis. The Grace skis are bamboo, and in addition to the 75th Anniversary logo can be customized with the patroller’s name. Only 75 of these special skis will be made. Surface Skis will be offering its patroller-only Save Life ski to NSP members this season, and also creating a special 75th Anniversary ski for the 2013-2014 ski season. Both the Grace skis and the Surface skis can be ordered from the NSP Pro Deals Page.

To help celebrate NSP’s 75th anniversary, Cascade Rescue Company has generously donated a unique, 75th Anniversary-branded, carbon fiber/titanium Model 100 “Legend” patrol toboggan to help raise money for NSP’s Education Endowment Fund. This one-of-a-kind tobog-gan, valued at \$3,500, is precision-crafted of carbon fiber and commercially pure titanium handles and framework, and will be imprinted with special 75th Anniversary graphics. The toboggan will be kept in the Snow Show exhibit as a showpiece celebrating the 75th Anniversary, and will have all of the sponsors and donors names on it. Decals will be used so that people can donate up to the the Gala. 75th Anniversary sponsors, including groups that buy tables or donate over \$500 to the 75th/ Education Endowment Fund, will be listed first in largest print. Individuals and groups who donate \$251-\$500 will have their names listed next, followed by individuals and groups that donate \$150-\$250, in progressively smaller text size by donation category. After the 75th Anniversary, the toboggan will be kept in the NSP Museum at the Lakewood, Colo., office.

Other companies producing unique, 75th Anniversary gear include Patagonia, Stanley, and Hydro Flask. Look for these and other items in the NSP *Winter Catalog*. +





*Join us for National Ski Patrol's*

# *75th Anniversary*

• *Jan 31 - Feb 3, 2013* • *Denver, Colorado* •

### *National Ski Day - Ski Cooper*

Friday February 1, 2013  
7 a.m. - 8 p.m. buses depart from & return to Grand Hyatt, Denver

### *Ski Day at Winter Park*

Sunday February 3, 2013  
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. buses depart from & return to Grand Hyatt, Denver

### *NSP Historical Exhibit @ Ribbon Cutting*

Thursday January 31, 2013  
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Colorado Convention Center, Denver

### *75th Anniversary Gala*

Saturday February 2, 2013  
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Grand Hyatt Ballroom, Denver

### *SIA Snow Show*

February 1-3, 2013  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Colorado Convention Center, Denver

Please join us in the celebration of NSP's historical milestone. Learn about the events, how to register, or become a sponsor of NSP's 75th Anniversary Event at [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org). For more info, please contact David Frick or Melanie Hood at 303-988-1111 or [nspevents@nsp.org](mailto:nspevents@nsp.org).

