

Assistant Director Eastern Region Rocky Mountain Division
National Ski Patrol
Loveland Ski Patrol
2009-2010 season

For the season the Georgetown sections 2 volunteer patrols were well represented by their respective patrol Directors. Doug Ginley (Loveland) and Jeff Waynik (Eldora). Both patrols are well organized and seem to run relatively effortlessly with the usual glitches along the way.

Participation by patrollers still seems to be a problem. This affects Loveland more than Eldora, as more patrollers are needed to cover the mountain. Loveland gained 12 new hill patrollers this year and a few more auxiliaries. This will really help if attrition can be kept to a minimum over the summer.

It was a low early to mid snow season along the Colorado Front Range, which presented a few problems at both areas in relation to ski tryouts and toboggan training. However they both adapted and ended up with a good group of candidates. Although not all passed the toboggan test it was not for a lack of trying and good training. The lack of snow also caused a cancellation of the Eastern Region Toboggan instructor clinic that was scheduled for early January.

Loveland had a division OEC test in December. The Division OEC advisor Ann Gassman attended it. As always Loveland had excellent OEC training and testing advisors and a fantastic group of instructors. The biggest concern I have about testing is finding victims that can realistically play the part. It does no good to joke with the students and be unable to feign an injury in this faze of training, even for the slightest of injuries. I plan on talking to the Loveland OEC advisor more about that for next year.

I visited the Eldora Ski Patrol on two occasions this season. Both times I was able to meet and talk with their patrollers and Paid director. It is a very diverse and dedicated patrol with a seemingly good relationship with management.

Loveland is still growing with new management and there is an excellent relationship with the volunteers. Loveland's paid director (Ron Kidder) has been around for many, many years and continues to keep a nice cohesion between the paid and volunteer patrols.

One of Loveland's patrollers (Hank Thomas) suffered a cervical spine injury in the 2008-2009 ski season while patrolling. He is a functional quadriplegic and we have held many fundraisers with the cooperation and financial backing of the Loveland Ski Area. This is an ongoing process in trying to raise funds to help defray Hank's medical costs. More can be read about Hank and contributions made at www.freindsofhank.org.