

Enchanted Forest Cross-Country Ski Patrol

The area celebrated its 25th Anniversary, which was marked by a passing of torches. John and Judy Miller, who founded the area and who were inducted last year into the New Mexico Ski Hall of Fame, retired their downtown retail store, Miller's Crossing, and sold the ski area to their son-in-law and daughter, Geoff and Ellen Goins. Geoff has managed the area for many years and was interim ski patrol representative for several months of 2009. Harry and Martha Frank retired from the ski patrol after 25 years, the last 10 of which Harry was patrol director at Enchanted Forest. The new director is Mike Ritterhouse, Backcountry Manager for the Philmont Scout Ranch. In addition to his professional backcountry experience, Mike brings to the Enchanted Forest some 15 years of ski patrol experience, an impressive portfolio of wilderness medicine credentials, and a lovely wife--who is also a patroller. Clearly, Enchanted Forest got a two-for-one-plus when it recruited Mike.

The area had its usual roster of events: JUST DESSERTS, where local restaurants provide their signature desserts, which are laid out on picnic tables along the ski trails; LUMINARIA, the Christmas Night ski along candle-lit trails; our bi-annual PSIA recertification clinic/NSP Ski Enhancement Seminar (as most of our patrollers are also PSIA instructors); monthly moonless snowshoe star parties. But, the highlight ski event of the season was unquestionably the 2010 Lobo Invitational, the western states NCAA qualifying race for the national championship, which Enchanted Forest hosts two years out of every three. As was true in 2002, when the Winter Olympic Games took place in Salt Lake City, the university rosters included a number of olympic competitors, including three from the medal-sweeping Norwegian squad.

Harry Frank

Patrol Director Emeritus

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