

The 661 BUGLE

News and Lifestyles of Scouts, Scouters and Friends of Troop 661

This issue's theme:
"Helpful"
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Scouts learn that being prepared can save your life!



PHOTO: ADAM SMITH - THE BUGLE

THE GRISLY IMAGE OF HUMAN REMAINS ILLUSTRATES JUST HOW SERIOUS BEING PREPARED IS WHEN IT COMES COLD WEATHER HIKING AND CAMPING

on tips for a comfortable and safe outdoor winter experience. In his presentation, he explained different types of shelters and how to build them, the proper clothing to bring and wear, essential items you would need and how to store them in your shelter. For example, he explained



Photo: Adam Smith - The Bugle

MIKE ST. CLAIR TALKS ABOUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF SHELTERS THAT CAN BE USED TO ESCAPE THE COLD WEATHER. SOME CAN EVEN BY QUITE ROOMY AND COMFORTABLE!

By Adam Smith, Bugle Staff Writer

MISSION VIEJO - Mr. Mike St. Clair knows cold weather. He is a member of The Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol, a group of volunteers who help keep hikers, campers and skiers safe in winter conditions in areas such as Mt. Pinos.

Mr. St. Clair recently visited a Troop 661 meeting and gave an eye-opening presentation about the dangers of going into cold weather situations without being properly prepared. Some grisly pictures and stories illustrated just how quickly a fun afternoon hike or overnight camp out can turn deadly.

The presentation focused on tips for a comfortable and safe outdoor winter experience. In his presentation, he explained different types of shelters and how to build them, the proper clothing to bring and wear, essential items you would need and how to store them in your shelter. For example, he explained that you should keep your shovel next to you while you sleep because your shelter could collapse or the opening could be buried with snow, effectively cutting off oxygen. He shared a story of just such an event happening when the opening of some patrol members shelter was blocked by blowing snow. If the occupants hadn't

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**WATCH FOR THESE
IN FUTURE EDITIONS:**
Our newest Eagles
Dutch Oven delights
Photo Contest

What is the Nordic Ski Patrol?

(FROM THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NORDIC SKI PATROL WEBSITE)

The Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol is a volunteer organization working in partnership with the United States Forest Service. We are located at Mount Pinos in the Los Padres Forest near Frazier Park, where we have served since 1977. Our patrol was named the National Outstanding Nordic Ski Patrol by the National Ski Patrol System for 1993, 1996, 1999 and again in 2006. We presently have 36 active members patrolling on most weekends from mid November thru April. Our patrollers include professionals, tradesmen, techies, students, retirees and all kinds of folk! The Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol provides a winter ski safety service, including

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Photo: Adam Smith - The Bugle

SCOUTS TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING PREPARED FOR A COLD WEATHER ADVENTURE FROM PRESENTER MIKE ST. CLAIR

“Prepared” (continued from page 1)

been thinking quickly and calmly, they might have suffocated in their shelter. But with their training and shovel close at hand, they were able to dig out the opening and let the air back in.

The Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol was instrumental in helping campers from Troop 661 during our recent “Survivor Scout” weekend, when a winter storm arrived at Mt. Pinos burying our brave campers in near white-out conditions. In fact, Mr. St. Clair was one of the patrol members that helped our troop that fateful weekend by transporting scouts who were too cold to walk, and hosting those that could, at their Ski Patrol Lodge.

Mr. St. Clair was himself a Boy Scout with Troop 2 in Willmette, Illinois, and currently lives in the Lake Forest/Mission Viejo area.

Remembering the “Survivor Scout” weekend at Mt. Pinos and the assistance of the Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol



The Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol was instrumental in helping campers from Troop 661 during our recent “Survivor Scout” weekend. Ski Patrol members prepare to extricate a scout suffering from the cold (left). Sometimes “mans best friend” helps in search and rescue efforts (below left). With sled loaded, team members prepare to head back to their base where the victim can be treated in a warmer and safer environment (lower right).



Photos: David Berschauer

“Nordic” (continued from page 1)

emergency first aid and search & rescue. We are trained in first aid, professional rescuer CPR and Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC).

We patrol the wilderness atop Mt. Pinos (elevation 8,831 ft.). By traveling on skis, we can quickly and efficiently access a large geographical area and provide assistance to people that may be lost, caught in bad weather, or simply in need of advice on the safest route of travel. We have a rescue sled which contains first aid and medical supplies such as splints and backboards. We are prepared to immobilize and/or treat injuries and we can transport an injured patient back to safety in the sled.

We are also trained in a variety of mountain skills such as Mountain Travel and Rescue, and avalanche avoidance and response. In addition, some members of our patrol are registered with the California Office of Emergency Service (OES) and can participate in statewide search and rescue efforts.



Photo - www.nordicbase.com



Photo - www.nordicbase.com

NATIONAL NORDIC SKI PATROL

You've read about the Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol, but did you know there is also a National Nordic Ski Patrol? Since 1938, the nonprofit National Ski Patrol has dedicated itself to - and has become the preeminent authority on - serving the public and outdoor recreation industry by providing education and credentialing to emergency care and safety services providers. Learn more about the National Nordic Ski Patrol at "<http://www.nsp.org>". To find out more about the Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol, check out their website at <http://www.nordicbase.com/>