

## 2008-2009

### Mt. Sima C.S.P.S Alpine Report

Hello all, I would like to start this report with a big thank you and pat on the back to all the patrollers that helped out at Mt. Sima this year. Without your dedication to your duties and your drive to be professional in everything you do, we could not have had such a successful season. A special thanks as well to the APL's and my Pro Patrol staff; they are my right hand men and women. Without them I would be lost and have no way to keep control over all the aspects of the patrol on the hill. With this year's number of patrollers down, it was so nice to have a solid team that kept things running.

This was our comeback year. We were blessed with a record snow year and new management. Together these gave us the push we needed at the hill and have gotten us back on track. I would like to thank Mt. Sima's management team for their support and willingness to listen and work with the patrol. It has not always been the case in past years and it is such a good change, I hope and know this will continue into the future. We had only once problems and that was with the beer gardens at Sima Palooza, but that was taken care of on the same day.

We had some new equipment this year in the way of radio accessories. We purchased all new batteries for the radios as the old ones had all failed the discharge test. We bought nineteen in total; this gave us enough for all the radios and some left over for swapping out when they discharge in use. With the purchase of the batteries I enforced a new charging protocol to gain more life and longevity out of the batteries. We now only have the Pro Patrol and the APL's do the charging and patrollers are to use the batteries till they are fully discharged. As far as I can tell it has been working and the batteries are holding up. If we use the radios this summer for any of our other events, I would like to see that they get fully discharged after every event and only recharged just before the next event. This will ensure that they do not retain a memory over the summer. Even with the new protocols we will still see a drop in performance from the batteries, this is an inherent problem with this type of battery. We will need to invest in some more for next season so we have enough for all patrollers to carry one extra when on patrol. We also bought new lapel mics. They have proven to be a good investment compared to the previous mics. They operated in all weather and are standing up to the use they get. It would be nice to invest in a few more for next season so that all the radios have a mic. We would need 6 more mics for the rest of the radios.

In the patrol room we also had some upgrades. We finally got a curtain to divide the room. We also got internet for the computer and my father Hans Oettli donated a printer that is also now operational.

All our other equipment has not needed to be changed. The toboggans are holding up well. There will be some minor repairs made to the older toboggans in the off season. I would like to propose that we look at getting a new snowmobile toboggan as the Cascade is starting to show its age. Its fiberglass is getting brittle and is becoming unsafe for hill use. There are many new types of toboggans out there. We should look at our options

soon and get a model we like and submit it to Lotteries as soon as possible. Also if the hill will be open over the summers, it would be a good idea to look at a toboggan that can be used for both snowmobiles and ATVs. The hill has also invested in new lift evacuation packs. We started with three to see how they perform. They are much better than backpack rapped in plastic. I am sure that the rest of the packs will be replaced with the new style for next season.

The Pro Patrol will also get some new equipment for next season. They will get new jackets and there will be self evacuation kits available for them when they are on the hill. If the hill will be open in the summer, the Pro Patrol will be staffing the hill for the First Aid requirements but it would be great to see patrollers come out when they can. This also means that there will be new summer uniforms for the Pro Patrol.

For the patrol room I would like to see some improvements to the non-medical side. I have requested funding for a small fridge to go with the microwave and coffee maker. With these small items it will give the patrollers more comfort and a place to wind down when the day is over as well as a coffee shot in the morning. I have also spoken to the hill management about building some cubbyholes in the hallway out side the patrol room. They would give us some more room as we can then put our clothing and bags out there so the patrol room stays clear. I am open to any other suggestions or request, please let me know if you have some ideas.

The on-hill training this year was very successful as there was so much more interest from the hill employees and management that made it a requirement to attend. Having the fire rescue guys out for training was also nice. This way we will have better coordination in the event of a lift evacuation. I would like to see for next year more on hill scenarios in the mornings to keep the skills of the patrollers sharp. Also we need to get all the patrollers up to a standard of skiing and level of confidence that they can take toboggans down our more difficult runs.

With the amount of snow and the amazing amount of pre-snow hill trimming, we not only had some of the best conditions ever at Sima but also had had far fewer injuries as we have had in the past. Not having much of a Xmas break due to cold weather also helped keep the numbers down. Here is the breakdown:

Mt. Sima Reported Injuries to Ski Patrol December 18, 2008 to April 13, 2009

Mild: 35  
Moderate: 23  
Serious: 1  
Deaths: 0  
Multiple: 0  
**Total: 59**

This is very good compared to other seasons were we would have 80-90 injuries. The number a major trauma is down to almost nothing. In the past we would have 3-5 major

traumas in a season. Head injuries are also down as a direct effect of the more common use of helmets. The patrollers also worked very hard to control reckless riding on the hill and fenced off large sections of dangerous terrain. That said with the amount of snow we got this year, we were able to safely open a cliff face that was never opened before.

This summer will see some changes to the patrol. Keeping with our high standards of first aid, we are moving to a more accountable system at Mt. Sima where all parties involved must put their best foot forward. There are many things we do well, but there is still room for improvement. With the help of the hill management we will be getting summer equipment for the pro patrol and devising new ways to run the patrol. I believe that with small changes we will see large improvements.

All in all it was one of the best seasons the hill has ever seen. The atmosphere has changed for the better up here. I believe that the hill will see many great things happen over the coming years. With the support of the hill and the word spreading that the hill is back and better than ever, I hope to see our patrol numbers come back up for next year. If we keep up with the hard work and dedication we will have the hill and patrol we have always wanted. Thank you again to all of you for your help and sacrifices over this season. I would like to also put my name in again for PL for next season if you the patrol will have me back.

Yours truly,

Samuel Oettli  
Mt. Sima Patrol Leader