

# Former Wisp Ski Patroller Earns National Recognition

Written by: **Sara Mullins**

Although service to others can be its own reward, it's gratifying to be recognized by your peers. Such was the case for Larry Pease, a former paid patroller of the Wisp Ski Patrol who was recently inducted into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame, Class of 2018.



The National Ski Patrol (NSP) has worked to keep winter sport enthusiasts safe through education and rescue operations since its inception in 1938. In recognition of the organization's value to the nation, the NSP received a congressional charter in 1980 for its dedication to public safety. During its 75th Anniversary Celebration in 2013, the NSP created a Hall of Fame to honor members for outstanding service.

"It's quite an honor," says Steve Cabe, the current director of Wisp's Ski Patrol. "It's a thankless job."

"It was a complete surprise," Larry says. After 60 years with the ski patrol, Larry had retired to his home in Jamaica, VA. "It's nice to be recognized. It's one of the high points of my life and career."

"I'd gone to Wisp to attend an annual refresher course on first aid. More than a dozen old-timers were there, but even then, I was clueless. Most of what I did was for the good of the organization. I didn't expect a reward."

Larry's ski patrol journey began out west, in his hometown of Yakima, WA. He first tried skiing in 1949 when attending a Boy Scout camping trip to Willamette Pass Ski Area. In 1956, he joined the National Ski Patrol at Hoodoo Pass. He later became a National Park Ranger and joined

the Stevens Pass Ski Patrol. His work for the U.S. Geological Service at Mt. Rainier led to a job offer in Silver Spring, MD. So Larry moved east in 1961 and eventually joined the Ski Club of Washington D.C.'s Ski Patrol. Through his service as a southern representative to the U.S. Ski Association, he found his way to Wisp Resort in 1963 and began to help with training instructors in Outdoor Emergency Transportation and American Red Cross First Aid. In 1982, Larry joined the Wisp Ski Patrol.



During his ski patrol career, Larry received several awards from the National Ski Patrol. In 1960 he was honored with a NSP National Appointment Number, given to those exhibiting leadership, good character and extraordinary service. In 2012 he received an NSP Distinguished Service Award and a Yellow Merit Star.

Comments from Wisp Ski Patrol member Wendy J. Thompson that appear in the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame nomination form offer some insight into how Larry's peers viewed his service. Thompson says, "Larry is the personification of what Minnie Dole had in mind when he founded the NSP: a group of people dedicated to promoting ski safety and educating the skiing public who live by the creed of 'Service and Safety' established by the NSP."

Now 85, Larry no longer skis. He has other plans. "I'm now honing my writing skills and working on a collection of anecdotes from my own history, and getting a picture



Larry during his ski patrol career at Wisp.

PHOTO BY LANCE BELL



of why I was inducted. I spent 44 years as a volunteer and then 16 years getting paid, and there's nothing like getting paid for something you like to do. I still have a passion for what I do."

A longer article entitled "Larry Pease: A Passion for the Ski Patrol" appears in the Spring/Summer 2009 issue of *Mountain Discoveries* and can be viewed at [www.mountaindiscoveries.com](http://www.mountaindiscoveries.com) under "Past and Present Issues."

**Photos from Larry's induction into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame, Class of 2018.**

**Top: Larry and his wife, Gail, enjoy the evening.**

**Middle: Larry proudly displays his NSP Hall of Fame plaque.**

**Bottom: B.K. Semendic (left) and Rick Hoffman (right) hoist Larry on his chair.**