

## C. Peter Austin

Peter Austin has devoted a lifetime of service to the National Ski Patrol as both a staff member and volunteer.

He grew up in Binghamton, New York, where he learned to ski on a pair of wooden skis into which he drilled holes for rawhide tongs to supplement the toe straps. At Colgate University he joined one of the early patrols as a trainee. As a member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps in World War II he asked to join the U.S. Ski Troops, which was to become the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. After basic training he went to Camp Hale in Colorado where he learned to love skiing. He was taught military tactics, but also enjoyed recreational skiing with the great skiers who had been recruited for this specialized duty. He learned to ski in deep snow at altitudes more than two miles high-with rifle and heavy pack and survival gear.



Peter went to Italy with the 10<sup>th</sup>, where he became an operations sergeant in division headquarters. He received a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster for his service.

After the war he befriended C. Minot Dole, who founded the National Ski Patrol and whose determined efforts lead to the formation of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Peter learned from Dole the philosophy of service to the sport and rejoined the patrol system. His first position was at a new, small area called Innsbruck USA, where he became assistant patrol leader and ARC first aid instructor. He later went to Greek Peak as advisor and training officer for the large Junior Ski Patrol. Their competition team won many regional and divisional first aid contests.

After advancing through various advisory positions as a volunteer for the Eastern Division, which included Pennsylvania, Peter joined the NSPS professional staff. He build the Junior Ski Patrol, the real working trainees for the system, to a force of 2,000 throughout the U.S.

As his administrative duties increased, Peter founded the National Ski Patrol Alumni Association. He served as chairman of this group for a time and then became the liaison officer between the patrol and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mt. Division Association. Although he retired from his NSPS staff job and 25 years as a volunteer member, Peter remains very active in the 10<sup>th</sup> association. He was recently senior vice president and currently serves as quartermaster with his wife Jane.

Peter lives in Brackney, PA, and has spent many of his retirement years skiing with friends at Elk Mountain. His health now keeps him off the slopes.

His life has been a full one, with service to our nation, a wonderful wife, children and grandchildren, and a varied career as a manufacturer of clay products, a freelance writer and photographer-all in addition to his ski patrolling.

We're sure that, like his comrades in arms, he sometimes considers each day since the spring of 1945 to be a bonus.

