

Douglas W. Howlett



Our Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum Board of Directors lost one of its most tireless contributors with the passing earlier this year of **Douglas Howlett**. The loss of Doug has left a cavernous void in our hearts, but his legacy is the dedication and enthusiasm that fueled the work of his friends and colleagues devoted to preserving the rich history of our sport.

When Doug Howlett took up skiing at Michigan's Boyne Highlands, the slopes of

Pennsylvania and New Jersey were on track to receive one of the region's most enthusiastic patrollers and cheerleaders. Within a few years of launching his debut on the snow, Doug was in the Garden State, joining the National Ski Patrol in 1970 with his wife Cheri and wearing the uniform at Ski Mountain in Pine Hill.

But change was inevitable and Doug watched his mountain base at Ski Mountain close. It wasn't long before he answered the call to cross the Delaware and start fresh at suburban Philadelphia's Spring Mountain. Doug's diligent efforts

have been rewarded with a shower of patrol service awards and he has twice been honored as "Patroller of the Year."

As if he didn't have enough on his plate, Doug also took on the role of Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor and Instructor Trainer for the NSP. He expanded his involvement to ski areas across the state by helping to plan, teach, and supervise the annual training programs. By 2002, Doug was serving on the national NSP Instructor

Development Committee which creates new patroller training material. In addition to assisting with the development of the NSP's computer based Instructor Development Course, his major assignment was rewriting and expanding the Instructor Development textbook, which is still utilized nationally by the NSP. In 2008, the NSP National Board of Directors elevated Doug to the position of National Program Director for their highly regarded Instructor Development Program.

Doug was also honored with a Ski Patrol National Appointment (#9126), one of the highest service awards bestowed on members by the NSP National Board of Directors.

Off the slopes, Doug spent a lifetime as a dedicated educator and school administrator. When the snows melted, we found Doug Howlett on the water, teaching, racing and beating the drum for his other love, the sport of harnessing the wind in the cockpit of a graceful sailboat.

Doug has, sadly, as sailors would say, "crossed the bar." He now drops anchor as a revered inductee to our Hall of Fame, class of 2010.