

W. Peter Benson

It began early in the winter season . . . long, black, heavy, metallic looking items lie in the living room, along with a pair of oversized hiking boots suitable for Herman Munster. A pair of branding irons with wrist straps stood in the corner. Yes, Pete, indeed, has found a new hobby!

Raising seven children alone, including clothing, feeding, private schooling, and tending to all of their emotional and physical needs, drove him to this new adventure. First deep sea fishing, then big game hunting, then martial arts, and now skiing? Has working at chemical plants taken its toll? But skiing??? The average African - American would never consider a cold mountain sport which includes red noses ears and cheeks, icicles on their mustaches and flying downhill on two narrow boards with no seat belts . . . but Pete did, and he returned from his first trip to the Pocono Mountains without major injury and vowed to return. He did, and soon arranged a trip for his entire family and the local C.Y.O. youth group. Soon, skis began appearing in new lengths and colors and the old leather Herman Munster boots were put out of service by a new lightweight model with gel inserts. Pete improved his skiing enough to enable him to join the National Ski Patrol. That sparked a new interest . . . the medical field. Pete enrolled in an Emergency Medical Technician course, became certified, and soon became the Captain of the Franklin Ambulance Squad . . . he was the only EMT on the squad! Several of his children followed in his footsteps, becoming EMT's and firefighters, as well as serving the public in other roles.

Pete continued serving people, friends and strangers alike. Over the years he became the National Safety Director of the National Brotherhood of Skiers, President of the Eastern PA Ski Council, Safety Chairman of the Blazers Ski Club, Chairman of the Board of the Blazers Ski Club and Director of Safety, and the Eastern Region Safety Director. He teaches American Red Cross first aid classes to adults and to middle school children in New Jersey, as well as many other related similar activities. Pete became a member of the National Ski Patrol System, (NSP) in 1969 and has patrolled at many Pennsylvania and New Jersey ski areas including; Holly Mountain, Chadds Peak, Camelback, Wissahickon Ski Club, and Spring Mountain, where he has patrolled since 1990. Pete received a certificate from the NSP Eastern Pennsylvania Central Section as the Most Valuable Patroller for 2004. His contributions helped the Spring Mountain Ski Patrol receive both the NSP's Eastern Division and Eastern PA Outstanding Patrol Award for 2004.

Peter is currently an NSP Outdoor Emergency Care instructor and an American Red Cross CPR! AED/FA instructor and he helps train patrollers at Spring Mountain and also for the Eastern PA Region. His experience as an Emergency Medical Technician, a member of numerous rescue squads and fire companies, and his training in search, heavy rescue, and evacuation, make him a valuable asset as a Spring Mountain patroller. Pete can be counted upon for his support of ALL of the activities of the patrol, including fund raisers, work sessions, and continuing education programs.

