

Ken Lukawy

Calgary Zone / Mountain Division

Ken's most notable contributions are focused in two areas: 1. Nordic Patrolling and Telemarking Starting in the mid-1980's Ken was heavily involved in establishing a Calgary Zone Nordic Patrol. He served in various roles in the developing patrol as Patrol Leader, finance officer, training, and area coordinator. This patrol covered a vast geographic area west of Calgary: the Canmore Nordic centre, West Bragg Creek and Peter Lougheed Park. At this time Nordic had a large national focus and Ken was actively involved in several Nordic Officers Workshops (NOW) presenting unique characteristics and needs of nordic patrolling in the mountains and contributing materials to update both the the Nordic Instructors Guide and Nordic Instructors Resources Kit. Ken qualified as CANSI (Canadian Association of Nordic Ski Instructors) Level 1 Telemark instructor. He shared his expertise and provided weekly ski improvement sessions at Canada Olympic Park for CSP members. At 1988 Olympic Winter Games held in Calgary, Ken served in athlete medical at Nordic venue in addition participating in two pre-Olympic years with World Cup test events. 2. Avalanche Awareness and Education Ken has been involved in Avalanche Education since the mid-1990's. He currently serves as National Avalanche Program Coordinator, a position he has held since 2011. He also serves as avalanche awareness/education contact for Calgary Zone and Mountain Division (MD). Mountain Division is responsible for running national avalanche programs. From 2009-2011 Ken provided overall coordination of a major rewrite of Patroller's Manual Operations Chapter 11 - Avalanche Safety & Rescue. Previously updated in 1986, this complete revision required two years of solid work. Specifically Ken wrote several sections and collated submissions from other team members into a cohesive document and assisted with edits arising from reviews. Ken continues to lead an annual document review to determine if any revisions are required to keep the information current to industry practices. He created collaterals to support the 2011 manual update: the "Avalanche Awareness & Training Program Instructor Manual" and the presentation "Introduction to Avalanche Safety for Patrollers"; and revised these documents in 2017. Ken co-organized and co-led the "National World Cup & Avalanche Training Week", a comprehensive 5 day program, to develop "big mountain" skills for patrollers across the System. This initiative included 2-day AST 1 (Avalanche Skills Training) course, orientation to patrolling world-level ski racing, and ski improvement at Lake Louise & Kicking Horse to develop a "mountain-rated" patroller. As part of this program, Ken also led attendees on a backcountry ski tour. In his role as Mountain Division Avalanche Coordinator, a position he has held for over 25 years, Ken coordinates avalanche training opportunities to members both within and outside the Division. He conducts a number of 2-day AST 1 courses annually to the patrol and organizes the higher-level AST 2 course, including hiring instructors, venue and terrain selection, student registration and finances. Ken provides input regarding avalanche programming into the Division's Alberta Sports and Recreation grant application. Through Ken's efforts and coordination, the CSP is an "AST Course Provider" licensed by Avalanche Canada (AvCan). Ken leads and administers the CSP Avalanche Education team to ensure the requirements of the

AvCan agreement are followed. Ken has been working with the national ICP Coordinator to properly and correctly incorporate avalanche instructors in ICP.

Ken's early work on the Nordic patrol helped establish the CSP's presence and authority in the Nordic ski community in Calgary Zone and Mountain Division. His efforts helped secure the CSP as athlete first aid provider at the 1988 Olympics. Details are described above. Ken's efforts at the National and Division level on avalanche awareness, safety, and rescue have made the CSP a "player" in the avalanche world. Our people are recognized as legitimate leaders and participants in avalanche education. Ken has built and maintained a solid working relationship with Avalanche Canada, the premier organization in Canada, and as a result, the CSP is a key partner. In order to keep abreast of advances and developments in the avalanche field, Ken regularly attends ISSW (International Snow Science Workshop) at his own expense and shares his learnings and updates with the CSP. CSP members are now routinely trained in avalanche safety through AST 1 and AST 2 standardized curriculums. Where it once was the exception, now it is part of the culture that patrollers are avalanche-aware; in fact Calgary zone has embarked on a program to have every member of the zone trained to the AST1 level in five years. Ken has been active at the zone level as a first aid and on-snow instructor and examiner, VP Finance and served as Zone President. He participated in the Zone High School Avalanche Awareness Program, an awareness and education presentation delivered to grade 12 students in Calgary and area high schools. This program was developed in response to the tragic deaths of students on high school backcountry ski trips. Ken transitioned from Nordic, through Telemark to Alpine skiing, patrolling first at Banff Mount Norquay, and now has been an active Lake Louise patroller for the past 20 years and is one of a select group who orient new patrollers. He is a key member of medical teams for the Lake Louise Winterstart World Cup and Norams, providing service as one of the equipment managers and is a trainer of newer team members. Ken also served as a patroller with the group of Calgary Zone CSP members who were key to the success of the 2010 Vancouver Whistler Olympic Winter Games, and the preceding World Cup test events leading up to those Games.

Ken's tremendous work in avalanche awareness has provided a solid foundation for growth for the CSP. In fact, if it wasn't for Ken's work (with a small group of supporters) the CSP would not have an avalanche program and would not be involved in avalanche awareness. Every resort where the CSP patrols in the Calgary Zone has avalanche terrain and it is imperative that our patrollers have avalanche awareness training in order to be considered as equals in our partnership with our resorts. As a result of Ken's work, all patrollers at the large Bow Valley resorts (Norquay, Sunshine, and Lake Louise) routinely carry transceivers and avalanche rescue gear, and know how to use it in the terrain they patrol. Another key result is that injuries and fatalities due to avalanches have been prevented due to education programs delivered through the CSP. The general public is far more aware of avalanche risk today than 20 years ago when the CSP ramped up its efforts. Ken's leadership style is "by-example" through quiet and persuasive discussion and action. Ken is a member of a small core group who can always be depended upon; these patrollers are our "rocks". Rocks build a very solid foundation for growth. When Ken attended the nordic workshops it was with the spirit of learning, sharing and building the nordic profile, not as a sage or self-proclaimed expert.

Patrollers who demonstrate this style are our unsung heroes and leaders. They work quietly out of the public eye because they aren't in it for attention, recognition or splash. They do it because they want to make a difference. Ken has made a difference to that young patroller who wanted to try out to telemarking for the first time, to that new candidate who has to digest and make sense of the vast terrain and many protocols from the eyes of a patroller, to families whose children take part in outdoor education programs, to patrollers coming to work at the Norams for the first time. These are the recognitions (from question 1) that are not listed in the NDS. Within the Lake Louise Patrol, Ken can be counted on to set a good example through his orientation of new patrollers and advice to more experienced patrollers. He maintains the high standards of our organization. He mentors new patrollers and new world-level race patrollers at the annual NorAm races at Lake Louise, including being a solid "go-to" person during the critical incident stress debriefing following an athlete fatality in 2017. Ken is a key senior member of the highly-specialized World Cup Medical team at Lake Louise over more than a dozen years, plus the Vancouver 2010 Alpine Ski Medical and Olympic test events in the years leading up to the Olympics at Whistler.

Ken is exactly the kind of patroller you would want on your team and is the type of leader the CSP needs; he is quietly confident, interested in self-improvement, always on the lookout for opportunities to make things better. He never criticizes publicly, instead taking concerns appropriately at the right time and place, and will always point out and/or correct a risky situation without making the person on the other side feel inadequate or embarrassed. He is not self-promoting, and you might not notice his presence, except when you start to look at his accomplishments and his style of delivery. Like most life member candidates Ken has contributed on many fronts of the organization as fist aid and on-snow instructor and examiner, Nordic Patrol Leader, VP Finance, Zone President. However his biggest and most outstanding contribution is focused on avalanche awareness and education, a small test significant slice of the organization. He has excelled in this achievement elevating the profile of the CSP in the eyes of the public, our resort partners and Avalanche Canada.

Ken's solid accomplishments put him firmly in the "builder" category, from early Nordic and Telemark involvement, to serious avalanche safety work that has resulted in the CSP being recognized as a legitimate technical partner in avalanche education, plus Zone, Division, and National level leadership contributions, and meaningful training and mentoring within his patrol and at the Olympic, World Cup, and NORAM level. Ken's style is "leadership by example" through quiet, persuasive discussion and action. Ken is a member of a small core group who can always be depended upon; they are our "rocks". Rocks build a very solid foundation for growth. He is not self-promoting, and you might not notice his presence, except when you start to look at his accomplishments and his style of delivery.