

Patrolling the Mountains on the East Coast

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Joseph Kulina, product assurance team supervisor for DCMA Aircraft Propulsion Operations Pratt & Whitney, recently received the Hartford, Conn., Federal Executive Association 2009 Community Service Award. The award cited Kulina's 34 years of continued, dedicated volunteer service for the National Ski Patrol System.

In 1974, Kulina joined the NSPS, a nonprofit, federally chartered organization, as a basic candidate patroller. In the winter of 1978, he passed his senior ski and toboggan test and two years later was appointed senior ski and toboggan trainer and examiner. Currently, he serves at Killington/

Pico Ski resort in Vermont, the largest and busiest ski area, serving hundreds of thousands of skiers and riders each season. As a certified patroller, Kulina provides training and refresher courses on outdoor emergency care, senior ski and toboggan training and NSPS certification for patrollers. He is also the volunteer director for the Otter Ski Patrol, overseeing 40 patrollers and their continued training and certification.

Skiers and riders know the importance of the all-volunteer ski patrol. If one is injured on the mountain, NSPS is the only nationally recognized service at ski areas and resorts to provide emergency medical attention and transport victims off the mountain

safely via toboggan to a medical facility. What many people do not know is this service is provided at no cost to the customer. According to the NSPS mission statement, NSPS "members support and participate in the ski and outdoor recreation community by providing emergency care, rescue and education services."

Kulina's dedication to his NSPS role is noteworthy. "Due to his high-performance skill level, he is highly regarded and respected throughout the Eastern Division," said Frey Aarnio, Ski and Toboggan Program, Eastern Division National Ski supervisor. "His contribution of time, energy and leadership on a volunteer basis is what sets Mr. Kulina apart from others." 



DCMA's Joseph Kulina has been a dedicated NSPS volunteer for 34 years. Here he demonstrates toboggan rescue with his wife, Marianna. (Photos courtesy of Joseph Kulina)



Since 1974, Kulina has been patrolling the Vermont slopes.