

MARJORIE THORPE

SKI PATROL DIRECTOR
THUNDER RIDGE SKI AREA



Amidst the political fervor of recent months, it's possible that Marjorie Thorpe is the only elected official in the nation who felt ambivalent about her election results. "It's not a competition!" insists the Pahquioque Ski Patrol director at Thunder Ridge Ski Area in Patterson. The volunteer position was awarded to her three years ago by the 40 patrollers she supervises, but though she'd happily serve another three years to max out the two-term limit, being "top dog" isn't Thorpe's priority. "I'm not a politically motivated person," she says. "My whole life revolves around helping and teaching."

Two paid patrollers work weekday nine-to-five shifts at Thunder Ridge, but everyone else (including Thorpe's husband, Glenn) patrols just under 40

hours per month, *pro bono*. They perform first aid on icy slopes—exposed to the elements, without doctors or ambulances—and navigate toboggans on skis, bearing injured cargo around trees and rocks to the base lodge. In addition to her regular patrols, Thorpe trains patrollers and even evaluates other patrol trainers for the National Ski Patrol Eastern Division. She sits on the Putnam Soil and Water Board and chairs the county's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. She belongs to Noah's Wish, which she calls "the Red Cross for animals," and owns Over the Hill horse farm in Brewster, where she offers affordable boarding and riding lessons. "When I started my barn, the idea was to make learning how to ride available to the

common man," she says. An avid skier, Thorpe was lured to Thunder Ridge, not only because of its proximity to her house, but also because of its similar, society-minded vibe. "When it comes to learning how to ski at a reasonable price nearby your house, you can't beat Thunder Ridge," Thorpe says. "It's not Vail, but it's not trying to be Vail."

Scale Mountains

Wanna be a certified ski patroller?
Contact the National Ski Patrol Eastern
Division (518-371-4843; nspeast.org).
THUNDER RIDGE SKI AREA Rte. 22,
Patterson; 878-4100; thunderridgeski.com