

Eastern Pennsylvania Region

Stated Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2011



I. Section Chiefs and Patrol Directors Mini-Sessions from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

II. Call to Order

Gerit Lewisch, Regional Director, called the regular meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:35 AM on November 13, 2011 at the Bear Creek Mountain Resort and Ski Area. Thank you Bear Creek for hosting. Special recognition of attendance to Burt Mitchell, National Chairman, Flo Rutherford Division Instructor Development Advisor, Ellie Jessum, Division Historian, Chris Raup and Bob Hall, Wounded Warrior Patrol, George Hannon, Jack Peck, Sharon Friedel, ARDs, and all of the Patrol Directors and EPA Advisors. Minute of silence to remember all of our departed patrollers.

III. Secretary Report

Minutes have been duly posted on the EPA website. Motion made by Jack Peck to approve Minutes; Brent Watts seconded. Minutes approved.

IV. EPA Elections - Bob Davies

John Stinsmen and Bob Bernatos were eligible to run for the office of Region Director. The Region Director -Elect is Bob Bernatos. The 2012 – 14 Elections for next spring are for the positions currently held by Central Section Kurt Adam, Pocono Section Dina Manoway and George Hannon Region Delegate-at-Large.

V. Section Chiefs Meeting Reports

A. Central - Kurt Adam

1. How to improve the message from National/Region to our areas
2. Pictures in the Newsletter
3. This year's election process--how to improve
4. Local Patrollers need to see Region advisors and know what they do

A. Northern - Paul Spear

1. Recruitment; Big Bear and Hideout have lost patrollers this year
2. Tanglewood is closed
3. Sno Mountain has 17 new candidates
4. Elk Mountain has usual programs scheduled
5. Upper Delaware Nordic Patrol has a new patrol representative

C. Pocono - Sue Ballek for Dina Manoway

1. Recruiting--all areas are in good shape with recruiting. Jack Frost is not taking new patrollers this year. Camelback has been having good success

with Open House and recruiting and have 8 candidates this year. Alpine's recruiting has been word of mouth and they have 6 new candidates this year.

2. OEC written test is not passable.
 3. Jack Frost bought some Stokes litters to get in to places that toboggans can not get to. They are increasing their size of the cliff.
 4. Big Boulder and Saw Creek are both 100% paid patrols.
 5. Alpine has been having some issues with power. They expect to be open.
 6. Ranchlands has lost a good portion of their snowmaking pond. They are expecting to open but do not know yet.
 7. Auxiliary Patroller change--what was the final result?
 8. Chairlift evacuation
- D. **Southwest - Bob Bernatos for Deck Bense**
1. Liberty Mountain manpower has 118 patrollers but many ski at a reduced shift due to the emeritus program. This is the last year they are offering the emeritus program. Liberty is trying to increase their safe skiing program.
 2. Whitetail ran a joint OEC class with 20 students with Liberty Patrol.
 3. New local protocols.
 4. Roundtop will have to dial 911 (not use radio) but they are working to solve this with their County E-911..
 5. The three resorts non-skiing events pushing into patrollers' schedules. Potential conflict with dates and using resort and scheduling ski patrol events.
 6. Whitetail and Liberty have installed a loading carpet for pre-loading to a chair.

VI. **Special Awards Presentation - Gerit Lewisch, Burt Mitchell, Steve Buzzard**

EPA CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION:

Dennis Zercher – Ski Roundtop

Walter Larkin - Spring Mtn.

Bob Bernatos – Ski Roundtop

Ellie Jessum – Alumni (Spring Mtn.)

Kurt Adam – Bear Creek

Ken Gable – Bear Creek and Sno Mtn.

NSPS CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION:

Mei Lupack – Alpine Mountain

EASTERN DIVISION PATRIOT STAR:

Colin Hannings – Jack Frost
Lloyd Massey, Jr. – Blue Mountain
Craig Casucci - Shawnee
David Christiansen – Elk Mtn
G. Roebing Gravel – Elk Mtn.
Thomas Marett – Alpine Mtn.

PATROLLER CROSS:

Marie-Pierre Bloch – Ski Liberty

YELLOW MERIT STAR:

Joe Panczer – Alpine Mtn.
Megan Eckhart – Blue Mtn.
Nancy Mayberry - Camelback
Dick BenseL – Ski Roundtop
Bob Davies – Ski Roundtop
Sarah Keating – Elk Mtn.
Tim Kelly – Elk Mtn.
Wolfgang Boernert – Alpine Mtn.
Ron Helm – Ski Roundtop
Andy Miller – Ski Roundtop
Greg Johnson – Ski Roundtop
Thomas Kniess – Sno Mtn.

PURPLE MERIT STAR:

Tarah Decker – Alpine Mtn.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD (MSA):

George Hannon, ARD – Ski Roundtop
Jack Peck, ARD – Ski Roundtop
Sharon Friedel, ARD – Blue Mtn.
Brant Maley, CERTIFIED – Ski Roundtop
Gregg Johnson SEMM – Ski Roundtop
Wayne Eckelman, YAP Program - Whitetail
Richard Hartman, MTR – Blue Mtn.
Steve Buzzard, AWARDS Ski Roundtop

LEADERSHIP COMMENDATION APPOINTMENT (LCA):

Joe Palaia – Jack Frost

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA):

James Policelli - Camelback

Steve Buzzard announced the creation of a new award to recognize Gerit Lewisch -
“The Gerit Lewisch Regional Director’s Appreciation Award”

VII. News from National - Burt Mitchell, National Chairman

Thank you to Gerit and Eddie for inviting me.

NSP is in a select group of non-profit organizations.

Membership is approximately 28,000; 600 patrols across US, Europe, Asia

70% membership is volunteers

Approximately 40 lives saved /160,000 incidents each year--free of charge

Public safety is at the core of the organization

Frontrunner in research of equipment and first aid

Outlined National Chairman’s position responsibilities

Outlined Executive Director’s position responsibilities

Outlined the Board’s responsibilities

Board is working on improving the affiliate program

New quality assurance program

Fundraising--working on revenue from non-dues

Annual budget is approximately \$3 million; approximately 40% comes from dues

Brand recognition

NSP Enhancement Bill to Congress - Immunity to volunteers and recognize OEC

Online courses and testing

Young Adult Program

Safety public announcement videos for resorts

Welcome letter to new patrollers

NSP member discounts for homeowners and auto insurance

Donate gifts to US troops overseas

Collaboration with Canadian Ski Patrols

Education

Improve enrollment

Sustainability

New sponsors

Always available for questions

VIII. Wounded Warrior Patrol - Christopher Raup, Bob Hall

Chris would like to thank Gerit for the opportunity to speak.

Chris gave personal background on his military career

Introduce program to the EPA Region

- Provide background

- Mission

- Programs

- Funding sources

Opportunities for the region patrollers

- Education

Request recognition as a region program
Program expansion

IX. NSP Membership Classification Name Changes - George Hannon

Auxiliary classification is a change in name only

Adopted 5/18/11

Changed "Auxiliary" to "Patroller"

Changed "Patroller" to either "Alpine Patroller" or "Nordic Patroller"

Changed "Senior Auxiliary" to "Senior Patroller"

Changed "Senior Patroller" to "Senior Alpine Patroller" or "Senior Nordic Patroller"

Clarified responsibilities of "Patroller" status

X. National Board Elections - 2012 Board Candidates - Edward Hirshman

Expressed disappointment that there were not more candidates to choose from
EPA region membership has a large percentage of voters

Six candidates; can vote for five

Not endorsing any candidates; urging patrollers to vote

National policy - candidates can not sell themselves

Attendees had an opportunity to make comments on each candidate

Review candidates, make your decision, and vote

Lunch break at 12:00 PM. Meeting reconvened at 1:05 PM

XI. Division and Region Activities - Gerit Lewisch

Greg Larsen is the new Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller program advisor

Nadine Martin is the new Eastern Division ID advisor

Paula Knight is the new Eastern Division OEC supervisor

Please involve Steve Buzzard when you are trying to write in for an award

New medical director is Dr. Chester Smith from Alpine Mountain

Thank you Ken Gable for working with the Alumni program

Pat Cusak is the new alumni coordinator

Get an Alumni list from National to keep alumni informed within the Region

Find a replacement for the historian, Ellie Jessum

Proposal for electronic voting

Thank you Bob Bernatos and Howard Rosenthal for the license plate program

PDs are to sign the patrol cards before distributing to patrollers

Section Chiefs should track patrol and region changes of official positions

EPA website can post pictures and keep patrollers informed of all that is going on

XII. Budget and Financial Matters - Gerit Lewisch for Jack Bogdon

Balance is around \$35,000

Investments are about \$36,000

IRS and collecting funds

Patrols do not solicit funds

Membership fees get listed on the 990s as membership fees not income

Region budget is in good shape

Division has to decide to “cut” or “raise” to meet its budget
990s should have been sent in
Next year’s 990s will be a different form
Looking for someone who can audit the books

XIII. Winter Sports Hall of Fame - Ellie Jessum

Asking for nominations of patrollers to Hall of Fame
Two different types of positions
For the good of Pennsylvania
Applications on the website
Ed Hirshman offered to help with those who want to write nominations

XIV. Regional OEC Fall 2011 Refreshers Recap- Dennis Zercher

13 Refreshers
Cycle A Make Ups - Each area has to take care of their own
Cycle B and C Make Ups - Everyone must be caught up using 4th Edition
Have until December 31st to meet these requirements
Video Presentation of Fall OEC Refreshers
Positive comments
Refreshed 1226 patrollers

XV. S&T - Greg Watson

Senior exams and impact on the area where its being held
Toboggan instructors - 200
Largest ski and toboggan group in the Eastern Division

XVI. Communications - Wolfgang Boernert

Website is for members - have your patrollers visit it regularly
Website is the “go to” for information
Need to keep website information fresh
Calendar function streamlines registration and fees
OEC and EMS pages created
Would like to add pictures next to advisors’ names
Website is maintained all year long
Ski patrol license plate program through website
MIST - Member Information Services Team
New phone number 855-SKI-NSPS
If you register for an event - go. If you can’t attend, email Wolfgang.
OEC refreshers coming up in NJ, NY, and MA. Last ones.
Registration issues

XVII. Updates - Regional Advisors

Fall ID course is at Sno Mountain
Spring ID course is at Bear Creek

XVIII. Open Discussions - Line Officers & Attendees

Gerit asked if there should be a regional memorial plaque. It was discussed about having a memorial on the website.

Gerit would like a recruiting video.

Support Bob Bernatos during the transition.

Ed Hirshman thanked Gerit Lewisch for his years of service as the RD

YAP Seminar is March 3rd and 4th at Blue Mountain. Need help with instructing.

YAP division seminar is March 16-19 at Bromley Mountain

Want more participation at MTR program.

Joe Joyce examining relationship between paid/volunteer members. Having yearly meeting of paid patrollers.

XIX. Remarks from Our 2012 - 2014 Region Director- Elect - Bob Bernatos

Thank Gerit and the entire staff for everything they have done in running this large Region. Most of the officers and staff plan on remaining in their positions. Looking forward to the work in front of him.

XX. Adjournment

Thanks to Bear Creek for hosting the meeting. Spring officers meeting on April 14, 2012 at Blue Mountain. Motion made by George Hannon and seconded by Jack Peck to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by: Nancy Mayberry

Minutes approved by: