

# Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2012



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

### II. Call to Order

Bob Bernatos, Regional Director, called the regular meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:50 AM on April 14, 2012 at the Blue Mountain Ski Resort. Thank you Blue Mountain for hosting. Minute of silence to remember all of our departed patrollers.

### III. Secretary Report

Minutes from the Fall 2011 meeting have been duly posted on the EPA website. Motion made by Keith Winot to approve the Minutes; George Hannon seconded. Minutes approved.

### IV. Opening Remarks:

Thank you to Gerit Lewisch for his years of service. Bob Bernatos is looking forward to his work as Regional Director. Patrol Directors stood and announced themselves.

Gerit Lewisch spoke of his years as Region Director:

#### **Region accomplishments:**

EPA Website

Online Store

Interactive Calendar

Not For Profit Mailing

PA License Plates for Ski Patrol

Recognition from PA EMS for OEC Certification as First Responder

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Electronic Voting Amendment

The EPA Region works very well together, and Gerit credits the members. Finances are in good shape. Please support and cooperate with our new Region Director, Bob Bernatos, so we can continue to grow. Gerit thanked everyone for all their support and help.

## V. Section Chiefs Meeting Reports

### A. Northern - Paul Spear

Patrols had a great season

- Hideout: 10 new candidates and will be running an OEC class

- Elk Mountain: Great year. Annual Patroller School had approximately 100 people. Approximately 12 candidates and will be running an OEC class. Two people attempted Senior. One became a full Senior.
- Masthope: Commitment to double the size of the patrol room and enhance some of their facilities. Area invested in new lift evac equipment. Three candidates and two transfers.
- Sno Mountain: 14 new patrollers last season; six candidates this coming season; 4 people became Seniors.
- Upper Delaware Nordic: Only two days on skis this past season. One candidate will fulfill his on-the-snow requirements to obtain full status. Pete Snyder celebrated his 60th anniversary with the NSP. A dinner was held for him a couple of weeks ago.
- Tanglewood needs homes for its patrollers.

**B. Pocono - Dina Manoway**

- Jack Frost: First year with co-patrol directors which worked very well. Peak Resorts bought Jack Frost/Big Boulder. Season was better than expected. 5 - 6 people passed senior OEC. They strongly encourage their people to pursue Senior. More major injuries due to lack of snow (landing in the woods).
- Saw Creek: No real issues; everything was quiet.
- Shawnee: Weather was bad. Voiced concerns regarding the OEC 5th edition which will be brought to Flo's attention.
- Alpine Mountain: Taken over by Appletree Management. 3 candidates passed OEC; still struggling with recruiting.
- Camelback: More "management participation" this year. Lift safety program started by management with Ski Patrol input. Management would like to eliminate all snowmobile operations on the mountain during operating hours; would like input from other patrols. Standardized jackets for the ski patrol. Number of patrollers will be selling their current jackets and vests. Camelback hosted a Senior night clinic for about 18 people. First night was a mock Senior challenge; second night was a Senior clinic. Next year looking to do a real nighttime Senior challenge--limited to 12 people. Looking for more S & T Instructor Evaluators. Chicks on Sticks night at Camelback this past year.
- YAP program will be March 2nd and 3rd 2013.

**C. Southwest - Deck Bensel**

- Liberty did a regional lift evac including tower climbing, sit-ski, low angle rescue, and different techniques.

- Liberty and Whitetail ran a joint OE course.
- Roundtop had 3 new patrollers.
- Liberty and Whitetail are having a combined OEC course again with 10 people.
- Whitetail 1 Senior; Roundtop 2 Seniors.
- Roundtop has strong Alumni program.
- Continuing education for Senior patrollers.
- Award paperwork is difficult once it goes up to Division/National. Potential section award writer to help with the program.

**D. Central - Kurt Adam**

- Eagle Rock: 3 new candidates; toboggan enhancement seminar; 2 new patrollers who are OEC instructors; 17 year old finished the Senior program; patrollers participated in many programs.
- Bear Creek: 10 candidates who started with S & T and then completed OEC program; held S & T clinic and an instructor clinic; 3 full Seniors; 6 other patrollers involved in Senior program; Phil Dougherty completed 50 years as a patroller.
- Spring Mountain: Mountain Host program trains individuals to support ski patrollers; emergency team training.
- Blue Mountain - 3 full Seniors; no candidates this past year; 7 new candidates this coming year; patrollers participated in various programs; Bucks County Community College representative did rope training, lift evac, and low angle rescue; one Senior TE.
- Valley Forge Nordic Patrol: New nordic patrol this past year; Rick Shandler is the Patrol Director; will be patrolling with mountain bikes this summer.

**VI. Ed Hirshman prepared a list of EPA Region Director History:**

1948-1955	L.C. Copeland
1955-1967	Harlen French
1967-1969	Joseph Ninno
1969-1975	Owen J. Williams
1975-1979	J. Roger Heaton
1979-1983	George Helwig
1983-1990	Bill Ballek
1990-1995	Bill Sachs
1995-2002	Ed Hirshman
2002-2006	John Pelliciotta
2006-2012	Gerit Lewisch
2012-Present	Bob Bernatos

The following were present today and a group picture was taken:

Bill Ballek  
Bill Sachs  
Ed Hirshman  
John Pelliciotta  
Gerit Lewisch  
Bob Bernatos

**VII. Special Awards Presentation - Steve Buzzard and Gerit Lewisch**

The following awards were presented at the Spring Annual Meeting:

**EPA Certificate of Appreciation:**

Chris Raup, Ski Roundtop  
Dr. Bob Hall, Ski Roundtop  
Western Appalachian Region  
Bob Dourand, Sno Mountain  
Russ Scaramastra, Bear Creek  
Rich McVeigh, Liberty Mountain  
Lois Renda, Upper Delaware Nordic  
Art Blake, Eagle Rock

**Outstanding Awards:**

OS Nordic Patrol - Upper Delaware  
OS Large Alpine Patrol - Blue Mountain  
OS Instructor - Bob Bluff, Elk Mountain  
OS Administrator - George Hannon, Ski Roundtop

**Annual Service Award:**

Wayne Eckelmann, Whitetail

**RD's Appreciation Award:**

Wolfgang Boernert, Alpine Mountain

**Patroller's Cross:**

Denny Penny, Ski Roundtop  
Stephanie Strobel, Bear Creek

**National Certificate of Appreciation:**

Ron Helm, Ski Roundtop

**Yellow Merit Star:**

Howard Rosenthal, Jack Frost  
Dr. Millin, Liberty Mountain (Formerly)  
Bob Scarlett, Liberty Mountain  
John Henderson, Liberty Mountain

**Meritorious Service Award:**

Ed Hirshman, Ski Roundtop

**National Appointment:**

Mimi Cusick, Sno Mountain

Award presented to Gerit Lewisch thanking him for his years of leadership.

Bob Bernatos stressed the importance of nominating people for awards; thank you Steve Buzzard for all your work in processing the awards. Steve Buzzard noted that he is available to answer questions; guidelines for the awards process will be posted on the website in the near future. Our region is one of the best for processing awards. The Region Awards Committee is now meeting at the EPA Spring Officers meeting.

**VIII. Program Updates**

**1. YAP - Meghan Eckhart**

- March 2 - 3, 2013 at Blue Mountain
- 2013 Division Seminar at Smugglers Notch
- 2014 YAP Jamboree at Sugarloaf (National)
- Give interested teenagers Meghan's number and she will find them a patrol

**2. S & T - Keith Winot and Bob Bernatos**

- Two S & T Evaluations next year
- Senior S & T Challenge at Camelback next year - must be documented and signed off by a TE as to each candidates' level of ability
- Emails will be sent to PDs for vouching of Senior candidate's ability
- More training available for upcoming year

**3. SEMM - Greg Johnson**

- Two clinics and evaluations this past year
- New format for evaluations went over well with candidates
- Overall pass percentage rate was 57%
- Next year there will also be two clinics and two evaluations all on Sundays, at Sno Mtn., Roundtop, Eagle Rock and Shawnee
- Would like to thank all the TEs for their help -- training is the key

**4. OEC - Dennis Zercher**

- Welcome back Joe Joyce!
- The same number of refreshers will be held
- Three refreshers in November which will make it tougher

- Hard to schedule dates with ski areas due to their fall resort activities
- OEC planning meeting in June
- Check website for dates and more information

**5. MTR & Avalanche - Rich Hartman**

- Great program this year
- Roundtop was a great host; 50 people attended
- Blue Mountain will host next year
- Check the website for dates
- Encourage your patrollers to participate
- Great instructors involved

**6. Instructor Development - Brent Watts**

- Low attendance at the last ID Course
- Track patrollers' progress through mentoring
- Quality instruction through the disciplines
- Fall Class will be at Bear Creek

7. **Aid Room Management Seminar** - Ed Hirshman stated that this course is a core component of the Senior Patroller (formerly Senior Auxiliary) requirements. It was taught at Roundtop this season and can be offered at the Region level in 2013.

**Lunch break at 11:20 PM. Meeting reconvened at 12:05 PM**

**IX. Finances - Jack Bogdon**

Treasurer's Report was emailed prior to this meeting. Jack summarized the report. Let your patrols know they have to submit on the new 990 form. It is available on the website with a set of instructions. Please use the website for program registrations and fees. This was Jack's last report. The new treasurer is Maryellen Martin. Bob Bernatos said there will be a formal policy for travel expense reimbursement.

**X. Bob Scarlett, National Legal Advisor**

National Volunteer Legal Counsel's Report to the EPA Region:

Bob Scarlett stated that there is a new thrust under discussion at National to have Patrollers train mountain safety personnel to bring empty toboggans to the accident scene.

Power of EPA

Largest Region in NSP

Get Your Patrollers to Vote

Potential Board Members

Current Status of NSP

Constructive Suggestions

Observations  
Membership Growth  
Financial Trends  
OEC 5th Edition  
NSP Lobbying  
National Enhancement Bill  
OEC Quality Control  
Doctors and Medical Professionals Liability  
NSP Insurance  
Affiliate Program  
Personal Thank You

**XI. Ed Hirshman - NSP Board Elections**

Discussed each potential board member's qualifications. Bob Bernatos asked everyone to let him know of any nominations.

**XII. Certified Program - Bob Bernatos**

Discussed running toboggans outside of the handles. Brant Maley and Justin Guth are currently giving seminars on how to run outside of the handles to other divisions.

**XIII. Professional Patroller Advisor - Joe Joyce**

Please keep in shape - 30 minutes of exercise each day. Promotes AED availability and that it should be brought to scene for all unconscious patients.

**XIV. Elections - Bob Davies**

Southwest and northern delegates will be elected next year. Also, the RD election nominations will start. Supports electronic elections.

**XV. License Plate Update - Howard Rosenthal**

About 200 plates registered. If there are any concerns, please contact Howard. Some people are not following the registration instructions correctly. Members are proud to drive with the license plates. It has been a great program.

**XVI. Electronic Voting - Bob Bernatos**

EPA has submitted a proposal to modify the Division By-Laws to allow Electronic Balloting as an option to the currently required written paper ballot. Proposal will be voted on at the upcoming Spring Officers Meeting at Albany. Meanwhile, we are working on providing secure online voting.

**XVII. Recruitment Video - Bob Bernatos**

The recruitment video was shared at the meeting.

**XVIII. Wounded Warrior Update - Bob Bernatos**

Event at Seven Springs was excellent. Slide show from the event was shared. A ski house was rented for 35 volunteers. The wounded warriors stayed at the Seven Springs Hotel compliments of the resort. Tom Buckwalter had a total of 52 volunteers

sign up with approximately 75% of them being patrollers. One volunteer came from the state of Washington. A lot of volunteers were vets. Seven Springs is welcoming the Wounded Warriors back in February. Anyone interested can volunteer by visiting the Wounded Warriors website. [www.woundedwarriorpatrol.org/](http://www.woundedwarriorpatrol.org/) 100% of donations received go to the Wounded Warriors.

**XIX. Open Discussion**

Gerit discussed that the Patriot Star is for veterans who were in combat. Changing the criteria for this recognition will be up for discussion.

Jack Peck said that the Wounded Warriors t-shirts are for sale and all the profits go to the Wounded Warriors.

**XX. Adjournment**

Bob Bernatos welcomes any comments on how the meeting was run today. Thanks to Blue Mountain for hosting the meeting. Fall officers meeting will be on Sunday, November 11, 2012 at Blue Mountain. Motion made by Dina Manoway and seconded by Gerit Lewisch to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by: Nancy Mayberry

Minutes approved by: