

Eastern Pennsylvania Region

Stated Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2013



- I. **Section Chiefs Meetings and Region Director/Advisors Meeting from 8:38 AM to 9:35 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 20, 2013 at the Blue Mountain Ski Resort. Thank you Blue Mountain for hosting. Thank you Gary for setting up. Minute of silence to remember all of our departed patrollers, especially: Jim Trout, Dr. Walt Peters, and Bill Ballek
- III. **Secretary Report**

Minutes have been duly posted on the EPA website. Motion made by Gary Lombardo to approve Minutes; Mark Clem seconded. Minutes approved.
- IV. **Introductions**
 - Dick Woolf, National and Division Telecommunications Advisor.
 - Ed Hirshman is retiring - Thank you to Ed for all of his service.
- V. **Section Chiefs Meeting Reports**
 - A. **Northern - Paul Spear**
 - The northern section had a lot of areas with record seasons.
 - Upper Delaware Nordic sponsored a snowshoe hike; currently have 20 patrollers.
 - The Hideout added new patrollers - two transfers and three candidates and are up to 17 patrollers. Record crowds over Christmas week. One groomer broke. Patrollers and ski school hand-groomed the trails.
 - Elk Mountain had record season. Opened over 100 days. Ten new patrollers. Held successful patroller school in January. Four patrollers passed Senior S&T.
 - Sno Mountain is now Montage again. The mountain was sold. Four new candidates; one full senior; three passed SEMM.
 - Big Bear at Mast Hope had capital improvements to patrol room. Four new toboggan instructors; three OEC instructors; eight candidates; adding snowmaking; staffing a marathon this summer.
 - Crystal Lake was a winter wonderland this season; opened December 18 closed March 9th; have 30 miles of trails; people are invited to come up and

try it. Provided emergency medical backup for ski race; sponsored two moonlight cross-country ski tours.

B. Pocono - Dina Manoway

- Just about everybody had a delayed opening; but some are skiing still today.
- Jack Frost had AED/CPR save on the hill; reviewing locations of their AEDs; YAP had two kids get their crosses; injuries were down.
- Big Boulder had a good year; the week that people normally take vacation was not well attended due to schools being open to make up for closings during Hurricane Sandy; two attempted SEMM; one passed; doing a patrollers' course next year.
- Shawnee was open until the weekend after Easter; one attempted SEMM and failed; one patroller passed 7 of the 10 Certified components; focusing on getting S&T instructors; had issues with MedEvac calls being questioned about whether they were medically necessary.
- Alpine's first year under new management; do not have an AED; problem with the new S&T sign-off requirement; Keith Winot and Rick Shaak from Camelback went to their mountain to help them out; using off-season festivals for recruiting.
- Pocono Ranchlands opened with 2 trails. Ton of snow on trails. Accident rate up - from six accidents to eight. Had an issue with S&T signoff requirements--Keith Winot and Rick Shaak would be happy to help them next year.
- Camelback stated accidents were down; Camelback had five people attempt SEMM and only two passed. Issues with ambulance personnel telling injured guests that the ambulance transport "probably would not be covered by insurance;" looking for electronic sign-in program for the patrol.
- Shawnee had an issue with registering the toboggan refresher course - would like Patrol Directors to be allowed to register the course even if they are not S&T instructors.
- Would like visibility to Alumni.

C. Southwest - Dick Bense

- All three areas opened end of December; two out of three closed mid-March; Liberty stayed open a couple of weeks longer; a lot of snow left on the hills.
- Whitetail had 13 new patrollers; Liberty 8; Roundtop 5; starting to see more older patrollers going to reduced duty or alumni status. Trying to beef up recruiting.

- Whitetail got new certified patroller--Clint Boyd; they are beefing up their training staff.
- Roundtop picked up three new S&T instructors; they are a CPR training center.
- Sectional S&T clinic held at Roundtop; next year Whitetail will host.
- Advanced lift evac clinic will be hosted by Whitetail.
- Annual low angle rescue course will continue.
- Whitetail had six patrollers receive Purple Merit Stars; Roundtop had two patrollers receive Purple Merit Stars.
- Would like to see Regional meetings held in the Harrisburg area at least once every other year.
- Suggested Regional funds be put toward OEC training equipment; toboggan brought to Southwest section will be moved to Whitetail for the S&T clinic; toboggans brought by Region don't seem to be brought to regional events.
- Active in Wounded Warrior Patrol program.

D. **Central - Kurt Adam**

- Eagle Rock started a week late; 20% increase in skier visits; held SEMM clinic and S&T clinic; three new toboggan instructors; three new possible candidates.
- Blue Mountain had a 97-day season; 324,000 skier visits; 1,223 incidents and were down from last year; 11 candidates for this year; three YAPS competed at Smuggs; participated in Safety Week; water park being added.
- Valley Forge Nordic had its first year as a new patrol - 20 patrollers; gearing up for bike patrol; working with the National Park Service; if any patrollers would like to help out in the summer, please contact Rick Shandler.
- Bear Creek has a new certified patroller--Inese Jardine; 90 patrollers; using an electronic accident report system called "Trail Check" -- no more paper reports.
- Spring mountain skier visits and incidents were down; two new patrollers this year and ten candidates for next season
- We're getting older. We need to promote the senior program and to get younger people involved in all programs.

VI. **Guest Speaker - Dick Wolfe**

I am the National and Regional Communications Advisor. I write articles for the Ski Patrol Magazine. Currently, I am a patroller at Stratton Mountain, Vermont. Big FCC

changes for this past year which are outlined in my article "Re-Striping the Parking Lot." NSP is the largest non-profit organization in the US that holds radio licenses. It has been a tremendous job getting all the licenses updated. All patrols will receive new licenses in the mail from Denver. More patrols are applying for repeaters. Repeaters improve the signal coverage. Licenses are required for authorizing a repeater. Contact me or Greg Mohr to start the paperwork. Go to the NSP website; click on Programs; Click on Telecommunications, and it will bring you to my content page which has a lot of information and my contact information. NSP will assist area management in modifying their radio licenses--free. Interoperability channels have been added automatically to modified licenses and all new patrol licenses. There is an upcoming article about 911 calls from ski areas. Encouraging ski areas to have a dedicated call line for guests to call for emergencies, missing family members, lost keys, etc. National Radio Equipment program was set up in July of 2012. Over 1,000 radios have been purchased; radios start at \$99; three models ranging from \$99 to \$144; dual band. Will also be offering dual band base stations and repeaters.

VI. Special Awards Presentation - Steve Buzzard

The following awards were presented at the Spring Annual Meeting:

Yellow Merit Star:

Greg Mohr - Pocono Ranchlands
Chris Asher - Big Boulder
Katherine Weber - Jack Frost
Terry Ownes - Big Boulder
Bob Evraets - Jack Frost
Steve Pappanastasiou - Jack Frost

Purple Merit Star:

Hasan Pehlivan - Whitetail
Sean Augustine - Whitetail
Chip Taylor - Whitetail

Blue Merit Star:

Mirodrag Circovic - Whitetail

Ed Hirshman Annual Service Award:

Dennis Zercher - Roundtop

Outstanding Awards:

YAP: Eric Curran - Eagle Rock

Patroller: Name to be Released after 6/22/13 per Patrol Director's Request

Paid Patroller - Doug Rice - Whitetail

Alpine Patroller - Sarah Keating - Elk

OEC Instructor - Sue Ballek - Camelback

Administrative Patroller - Wolfgang Boernert - Alpine

Patrol Representative - Howard Wyandt - Elk

Large Alpine Patrol - Roundtop

VII. License Plate Update - Howard Rosenthal

- Up to about 300 plates
- A truck under 10,000 lb. can get a plate
- Any problems or concerns, contact Howard Rosenthal
- Application needs to go to Howard Rosenthal for a signature
- Remind Patrols to let their patrollers know about these plates

VIII. YAP - Megan Eckhart

- YAP Seminar held at Smugglers; four kids from our area; most were in top 20 out of 50 kids; first place in skiing (snowboarder); third place in toboggan; fourth overall.
- Regional Event at Blue Mountain only had five kids attend; there are a lot more YAPs in the Region.
- YAPs don't have to compete; they can just "clinic."
- Next Regional YAP event will be March 1st and 2nd, 2014 at Blue Mountain.
- The Divisional event will be held at either Sugarloaf or Jiminy Peak next year.
- Megan would like direct contact with each patrol's YAPs.

IX. Elections - Bob Davies

- Section Chief Elections: Paul Spear and and Richard Bensel were re-elected.
- In 2014 Pocono and Central sections and Region Delegate-At-Large will have elections by paper ballot.
- The Region Director election will be held in fall 2013 and has been announced on the website. The window for candidates to file for election is now open and filing must occur by August 1, 2013.
- The Goal is to have Electronic Voting in the Region Director election process this fall.
- Bob Davies is stepping down and looking for a replacement.

X. SEMM - Greg Johnson

- This was my last year. Andy Kline will be taking over.
- Eagle Rock had 100% pass.
- Camelback had 41% pass.
- Overall percentage rate 58% pass.
- Promote the program.
- January 5 and 19, 2014 SEMM Clinics; Evaluations February 9, 2014 at Montage; March 9, 2014 at Blue Mountain.
- Andy Kline stated the program is running great.

XI. Fall Refreshers/On the Hill Days - Dennis Zercher

- Hard time getting schedule together due to mountain resorts booking weddings and other events. Four refreshers are now scheduled for November.
- Schedule is posted on website.
- Instructor refreshers are scheduled the first two weekends after Labor Day.

XII. Instructor Development - Brent Watts

- Successful class at Bear Creek.
- Confusion in Region on how to become an instructor; more information will be on the website and in the Regional Newsletter.
- The fall class will be held at Camelback.
- ID Program needs more instructors.

XIII. Safety - James Policelli

- Safety Program is about the same.
- We work outwardly bringing information to the Boy Scouts, Ski Clubs, and other organizations.
- If anyone would like to do a program, I would be happy to meet with you.
- Problem is that there are fewer and fewer ski clubs with fewer members. The audience is shrinking.
- My contact info is on the website.

XIV. Certified Program - Bob Bernatos

- Bill Jordan is the new Certified Chair.
- Two people from the EPA Region passed the Certified Test this year: Inese Jardine and Clint Boyd.
- Great program; helps you become a better patroller all around.

XV. S&T Program - Bob Bernatos

- Successful program this past March.
- Online registration went well.
- Keep supporting the programs.

XVI. Electronic Voting - Bob Bernatos

Been researching electronic voting companies. Association Voting offers an online voting process in response to a personal email to each voting patroller that implements the online voting process. The process has been tested by Region staff and provides the necessary security. Bob answered questions and discussed the pros and cons. He stated that the cost is reasonable and will be charged to the Region Director's budget line item. No significant objection was raised from the floor to the use of the online voting process in the coming election; and Bob stated that special effort would be made to accommodate patrollers that do not have an email address. Bob also pointed out that Association Voting would permit concurrent joint- election processes by several Regions under the same contract. Bob will bring this topic up for discussion at the Division meeting next weekend.

Lunch break at 11:38 PM. Meeting reconvened at 12:21 PM

Miscellaneous note brought to everyone's attention: Greg Mohr has designed a Coin for the NSP. They are \$12/each. A picture will be posted on the website. Please see Greg if you're interested.

XVII. Finances - Bob Bernatos for Maryellen Martin

The Financial Statements were presented. Questions were answered.

A Motion was made by George Hannon and seconded by Wolfgang Boernert to present the 2013-2014 Budget. Discussion ensued about the Budget and dues forgiveness. George Hannon pointed out that the issue of dues forgiveness had been vetted through several emails, compared with other methods, and found to work very satisfactorily. Therefore, it had been incorporated into the proposed budget at a level of \$11,200. George asked the officers to address the motion on the floor and vote the budget up or down as proposed. Ed Hirshman requested a vote be taken to approve the 2013-2014 Budget. A vote was taken and the budget was approved. A discussion continued about what patrols can do with the dues forgiveness. Bob Bernatos stressed that the dues forgiveness essentially eliminates the \$8 per patroller region dues for this year. No EPA dues will be collected by Region, and if any patrol collects a similar dues it will be considered as a local patrol dues, not a Region dues. Bob will refer any patroller complaints about such a local assessment back to the Patrol Director/NSP Patrol Representatives. Discussion continued about the funding of CPR requirements for patrollers. Bob explained that this method of reducing excess reserves would be difficult to administer, and the cost would be beyond practical limits for the Region to fund.

XVIII. Responsibilities of Officers

Officers have certain responsibilities. In particular, the following was discussed:

- Submissions of 990s.
- Patrol registrations. A late fee will now be assessed.
- Patrols need to check the delinquent rosters.
- S&T sign-off requirements.
- Understanding and conveying the Chain of Command.

XIX. Wounded Warrior Update - Mark Kendrick

- Hosted 11 Wounded Warriors at this year's event.
- The event went better than last year.
- Seven Springs has already committed to next year's event.
- The event budget is about \$50,000/year of which \$30,000 comes from Seven Springs.
- The biggest challenge has been finding warriors to participate. Please help us spread the word.

XX. Open Discussion

- Ed Hirshman talked about a proposal raised combining the National Appointment number with the Leadership Appointment number. This is not being supported at the National level. Ed asked that this issue be brought to the Division Meeting this spring.
- Dick Woolf said that he brought three model radios to the meeting if anyone would like to see them.

XXI. National, Division & Region Updates

- There are problems at the National level.
- Burt Mitchell has stepped down as the National Chairman due to health issues. Scott Marland, current Board Member from the Intermountain Division, will fill Burt's seat for the remainder of Burt's term.
- National's IT person has quit. Discussion ensued.
- The National dues increase of \$9 per patroller was discussed.
- The Instructor Refresher Guide is only available online.
- On Division level, the marketing department will be promoting programs.
- No dues increase at the Division level. There will be a new Treasurer nominated next week in Albany.
- The Division will enforce registration late fees.
- Division Historian is John Beach from Eastern NY Region.
- New Certified Chair is Bill Jordan who will replace Dave Walker.
- The Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum -- a proposal has been made to them to house the NSP museum.
- 75th Anniversary is over.
- Is anyone interested in running for the National Board?
- "Auxiliary" patrollers were discussed and how they can still become Senior Patrollers.
- The Aid Room Management class was discussed.
- Two EPA Ski Patrollers, John Yanoviak and Megan Eckhart, were at the Boston Marathon when the bombs exploded. These Patrollers teamed up with EMTs and helped victims.

XXII. Adjournment

Thanks to Gary Lombardo and Blue Mountain for hosting the meeting. Thank you everyone for attending. Fall Officers meeting will be on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at Blue Mountain. Motion made by George Hannon and seconded by Ed Hirshman to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by: Nancy Mayberry