

Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2013



I. Section Chiefs Meetings and Region Director/Advisors Meeting from 8:35 AM to 9:25 AM.

II. Call to Order

Bob Bernatos, Regional Director, called the regular meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:43 AM on November 17, 2013 at the Blue Mountain Ski Resort. Thank you Blue Mountain for hosting. Minute of silence to remember all of our departed patrollers and members in the services. Bob Davies announced that Bob Bernatos won the Region Director position.

III. Secretary Report

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

IV. Introductions

- Bill Sachs
- Kristina Hoxha
- Steve Sobolewski
- Ron Helm
- Jim Kille

V. Special Awards Presentation - Steve Buzzard

The following awards were presented at the annual Fall Meeting:

Eastern Division Patroller Achievement Award:

Bill Ramsey - Whitetail
Tom Jensen - Shawnee
Greg Mohr - Pocono Ranchlands
Frank Mason - Pocono Ranchlands
Steve Grove - Roundtop
Frank Kocsis - Montage
Rick Ruby - Montage

Yellow Merit Star:

Sarah Keating - Elk
Doug Rice - Whitetail
Howard Wyandt - Elk
David Weiss - Liberty
William Iandola - Jack Frost

National Certificate of Appreciation:

Ski Roundtop Ski Patrol - 50th Year of Service

Roundtop Mountain Resort - 50th Anniversary

Irv Naylor (Founder of Snowtime Inc.) - 50 Years in support of NSP

Purple Merit Star:

David. Bonomo - Jack Frost

Jonathan Sullivan - Jack Frost

Robert Rosenthal - Jack Frost

Adam Olsen - Jack Frost

Blue Merit Star:

Fran Falvey - Jack Frost

National Appointment:

Rick Shandler - NA# 11450

VI. Section Chiefs Meeting Reports

A. Northern - Paul Spear

- Elk Mountain: Bob Bluff has taken over additional responsibilities. Patroller School will be held again this season; always well attended. The OEC refresher ran really well.
- The Hideout: Down one patroller. New General Manager. Two new OEC instructors. On-the Hill is next weekend.
- Montage: New owners and the name changed back to Montage. Making vast capital improvements. Ten candidates this year; hosting MTR course; SOEC Clinic.
- Upper Delaware Nordic: Has 18 patrollers and waiting for snow.

B. Pocono - Don Kahler for Dina Manoway

- Jack Frost: Snowmaking improvements and lift evac improvements prompted by insurance carrier; there was a "save" with use of AED last season.
- Shawnee: Snowmaking improvements.
- Big Boulder: They are open; offering lift tickets in exchange for food donation.
- Saw Creek: Snowmaking improvements.
- Alpine: Sold; unknown if they will be able to open this season.
- Camelback: General improvements.
- Pocono Ranchlands: Status quo.

- OEC refreshers went very well this year.
- Keith Winot and Scotty Nedal will be running an Intro to S&T Instruction next Sunday.

C. **Southwest - George Hannon for Dick Bense**

- OEC Refreshers were held at Ski Roundtop and Ski Liberty, and all three areas have held their On-The-Hill Refreshers. Marc Clem reported that Whitetail held an advanced lift evac clinic, a low angle rescue clinic, and a Pre-SOEC Trainer clinic. All three areas will be hosting various clinics and events this season; and are supporting the Senior and OEC Instructor Programs. Whitetail has a reimbursement program for patrollers attending Senior candidate events. Whitetail and Ski Roundtop have night lift evac clinics scheduled. The Whitetail Patrol will be providing EMS care for the Frederick Running Festival in May. Whitetail is also re-training a current patroller who is now an amputee to continue certain skiing/patrolling duties. All three areas have candidate classes this season, with the Liberty and Whitetail classes combined. Dues have been collected; and the Liberty patrol is using the Region dues forgiveness of \$8 to purchase training supplies. CPR Refreshers have been held; last year Roundtop lost their training center, and had to set up their own independent CPR Training Center. There are some recruitment and maintaining volunteer staff concerns, primarily due to resignations and retirements to Alumni status; however Whitetail currently has achieved a full quota of patrollers. Electronic balloting experience was discussed. Problem areas included failure to receive email notifications, incorrect email addresses, and lack of e-mail addresses. We would appreciate having the Region meetings down south on a rotating basis. Roundtop graduated six new Seniors and four successful SOEC candidates last season. All three patrols have Alumni groups, and Ski Roundtop is hosting the Region Alumni event in February. We wish everyone a happy winter season.

D. **Central - Kurt Adam**

- Bear Creek: Wilderness and Emergency Response Institute; Trail Check incident reporting system working well; Bear Creek is interested in taking part in Wounded Warrior program.
- Valley Forge Nordic: Hosted division MTR Avalanche program; patrollers mountain bike during off season; developing a program with the Park system; LL Bean had approached them to run a program at Valley Forge.
- Blue Mountain: Water park being built; added some snow guns; Senior S&T will be held there.
- Eagle Rock: In need of assistance with patrollers; open 3 days/week; if anyone can help out, please contact John.
- Small S&T clinics will continue again this year.

- Trying to get more younger patrollers involved in patrolling.

VII. National, Division, Region Updates - Bob Bernatos

National elections are ongoing. Please encourage your patrollers to vote. Voting is open to December 1, 2013. Want to see voter participation rate increase. National has had software updates and are correcting problems with past software accessing procedures. Patrol records database update--National has problems with patrollers information being accurate. It is up to patrollers to verify their information and inform National of corrections. Tim White left about six months ago. Wayne Block was just released as the Chief Financial Officer. Darcy Hanley is Acting Director. Subaru contract program is continuing. National Dues went up \$9 this year, which should carry us for the next 4 - 5 years. Continue to try to raise funds, but it is very difficult right now. New National policies and procedures are available to everyone. Please check them out. If anyone has any questions, concerns, or feedback, please contact Bob Bernatos.

Division is updating their records. Discussion about a particular patroller and his negative social media attacks against the NSP; discussion about a particular patrol that ran an OEC refresher and challenged the QA process. The NSP policies were re-iterated to that patrol. Otherwise, Division programs are running well.

Region refreshers ran very well. The Region will be adding more training equipment. such as providing O2 equipment for next year's OEC refreshers.

VIII. Program Updates

S&T - Greg Wasson

Strict about pre-qualification for the S&T exam; 21 took the exam, 18 passed this past season. Bob Bernatos asked for feedback on the toboggan sign-off process--there were no real concerns. Bob also discussed some past practices and requirements. Maintaining updated S&T rosters was also discussed. Registering the S&T Refresher "course" was discussed.

SOEC - Greg Johnson for Andy Kline

Change in the evaluation date/location. Check the calendar for the Clinic and Evaluation dates. Remember to go to your TEs for sign-offs. Bob Bernatos discussed the SOEC evaluations and strongly encouraged patrollers to participate. Bob stressed that this is a great program for personal growth.

MTR - and Avalanche - Rich Hartman

Twenty-five people signed up for the upcoming MTR course; only five spots left. Avalanche course will be at Montage. Lots of new instructors in both programs.

Alumni Program - Pat Cusick

Alumni Event is February 9, 2014 at Roundtop. There is an Alumni advisor for the Southwest section. He is recommending other sections do the same. Alumni are a valuable resource. Alumni registration was discussed.

Instructor Development - Brent Watts

Camelback hosted an ID class. Currently, a goal is to get a dedicated group of people to host an ID program in the Northern section.

YAP - Meghan Eckhart

The YAP Region program will be at Blue Mountain. It is an overnight program and is well supervised. The Division YAP seminar will be at Sugarloaf. Working on transportation for that event. If you have kids that want to go, they leave from Blue Mountain. Requesting early registration--don't leave this until the last minute. Requesting email addresses for all YAPs so Meghan can have direct contact with them.

Women's Clinic - Inese Jardine

Women's clinic at Whitetail on January 12, 2014. Women's clinic on a weeknight at Camelback--date to be determined.

Lunch break at 11:24 AM. Meeting reconvened at 12:16 PM.

IX. License Plate Update - Howard Rosenthal

Nothing new to report. About 300 license plates are registered. Please mention it to your fellow patrollers; get the word out there. If you are no longer a patroller, the plates should be returned. All questions can be directed to me. Bob Bernatos mentioned that the quality of the plates may be an issue--everyone should keep an eye out for chipping and fading of the colors.

X. Finances - Bob Bernatos for Maryellen Martin

The current finances were shared on the projector screen. Remind everyone to complete and return the Region statement--even though there was a dues forgiveness this year. The Region wants to track information. The Region is buying more equipment for OEC refreshers. Storage for all the new equipment and equipment transportation were discussed.

XI. OEC Refresher Dates - Dennis Zercher

All Patrol Directors and Section OEC Coordinators have been emailed the Master List from the OEC refreshers - 1,299 patrollers attended EPA Region OEC Refreshers; 22 patrollers from outside the Region; 3 came from Europe. The general feedback was that the Refreshers are getting better each year. 365 - 400 babies were born at the childbirth station! Comments were that the instructor/student relationship was positive. All the refreshers were well received and well staffed. Liberty had their refresher at a school, which had an "excellent" learning environment. Check the Region Calendar for next year's dates to make sure that everything is posted accurately. Makeup refresher information is on the Region's website.

XII. Region Elections - Bob Davies

I thought I was going to retire last spring! Lou Marchi is going to take over. The RD election was completed last night at midnight. Bob Bernatos is the winner. There was

not a lot of participation -- 348 patrollers. 323 votes including eight write-ins; 25 votes are "still in progress" which will be looked in to. Voting participation history was discussed. In early 2014, the Central and Pocono Section Chiefs as well as the Region Delegate-at-Large positions are up for voting. The nomination/election process was discussed.

XIII. Open Discussion

Bob Bernatos discussed the Delegate-at-Large position. Bob also discussed the election process, participation, and electronic voting. One problem was no email or incorrect email addresses. Another problem is not being able to mix a paper ballot and an online ballot. A By-Laws amendment will need to be addressed to mix the ballots. Looking in to why some emails did not make it to their destinations -- even with accurate email addresses. Discussed the pros and cons of electronic voting, voting at refreshers, and mixed ballot voting. Information about the online voting was in the Region newsletter.

Bob also discussed Senior requirements and the Aid Room Management module.

Bob said there was only a little over 300 "hits" on the Region's electronic Newsletter. Discussion about getting the word out on the electronic newsletter ensued.

The Memorial Fund and scholarships were discussed. There was also discussion about a "Memorial Page" on the Region's website, at this time there will not be a Memorial Page.

Dues are due by December 31st.

Wounded Warrior Patrol program was discussed. There is information available on "how to host an event," but you would have to adjust it to your ski area.

XIV. Adjournment

Thanks to Gary Lombardo and to Blue Mountain for hosting the meeting. Thank you everyone for attending. Spring Officers meeting will be on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at Blue Mountain. Motion made by George Hannon and seconded by Don Kahler to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by: Nancy Mayberry