

# Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes November 13, 2016



## I. Section Chiefs and Region Staff Meetings from 8:30 AM to 9:20 AM

### II. Call to Order

Bob Bernatos, Region Director, called the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:45 AM on November 13, 2016 at Blue Mountain Ski Area. Thank you to Blue Mountain for hosting this meeting.

### III. Moment of Silence

There was a moment of silence to remember all patrollers and family members who are no longer with us, especially Dick Meyer from Roundtop and Scotty Nedal from Jack Frost, who passed away this year. Our thoughts are with Flo Rutherford as she continues to recuperate.

### IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Rich Hartman and seconded by Howard Rosenthal to approve the Minutes of the April 10, 2016 meeting; motion approved.

### V. Introductions

Welcome everyone.

### VI. Section Chief Reports

#### A. Northern - Paul Spear

- Montage had a very successful one-day season pass sale for \$279; 6 candidates; 1 transfer; new general and operations managers; will be hosting Senior OEC, OET and Chicks on Sticks.
- Big Bear expanded beginners' area, added carpet, replaced chairs added Narcan; lost 7 patrollers.
- Elk has 4 new candidates; 2 retired; they added OEC hybrid course to the candidate class—the only problem was dealing with National; hosting patrollers school.
- Upper Delaware Nordic has a new patrol director.
- Paul Spear shared one of the original first aid books and invited everyone to look at it.

## **B. Pocono - Tony Alber**

- Would like to know when Meeting Minutes are posted on the NSPEPA website; discussed candidates and the cancellation of certain NSP programs, GPS tracking of patrollers, text communications between patrollers and base, and fundraising.
- Alpine Mountain has been leased. They have 15 patrollers who are in need of a mountain.
- Big Boulder has 2 new candidates; new cable and chairs.
- Camelback has 15 candidates and recruit through Open House; new Alpine Slide; several patrollers attended the Warren Miller movie events for the purpose of recruiting for the NSP (not just for a specific mountain); they got a lot of information on how to make their recruiting efforts better at future events.
- Jack Frost has 4 candidates taking OEC course at DVSP in New Jersey; Explorer Season Pass which is good at 7 mountains; memorial for Scotty Nedal on Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27th, at 10AM; part of Scotty's ashes will be spread on his favorite trail; everyone is invited.
- Ranchlands feels that a lot of information does not go to the top at National; printing of membership cards can be done by anyone and anyone can forge a card using programs such as Photoshop.
- Saw Creek wants cards mailed out instead of printed by patrollers; they received 1 transfer from Alpine.
- Discussed how all the mountains should post their CPR, On-the-Hill, and other courses on the NSP-EPA website in case anyone can't make their own mountain's required courses.
- Shawnee stated that the "year joined" is missing on the patrollers' status sheets and is also not listing type of patroller on their roster; they have 6 candidates; questioned what the recent NSP survey was about.
- SOET training at CBK every Wednesday night, and SOEC at Shawnee on Tuesday nights. Would like list of ITs.

## **C. Southwest - Dick Bensel**

- Roundtop has a new general manager who came from Camelback, Matt Thomas. Kudos for Dennis and his OEC refreshers; best one ever; for OEC refreshers, would like to see patrollers do either the online portion or the book--not both. No Narcan in their section at this point. Candidate OEC test was very difficult to get from National this year. Questioned the OEC practical that requires each Candidate to go through each scenario

with only a certified OEC patroller and how that requires half of the patrol to come out and help with the test.

#### **D. Central - Inese Jardine**

- Bear Creek instituted summer lift evac program that involved area personnel, management, and ski patrol--worked well. Changed electronic patient care reporting to OneRisk software; instituted Narcan training.
- Spring Mountain is functioning status quo; mountain host program working well; patrol seems to be working out their differences; 8 new senior OEC candidates.
- Eagle Rock still has some gate issues; working on leadership; would like help from other Patrollers.
- Blue Mountain's new Patrol Director is Nick Schaefer; new assistant Patrol Director is Mark Engel; Advanced Patrollers School was very successful; Narcan kits will be available; patrol has new website.
- Valley Forge Memorandum of Understanding is official and a ceremony was held to acknowledge it; hosted Nordic refresher that was well attended; patrol numbers are growing.

#### **VII. Awards - Bob Bernatos for Steve Buzzard**

##### **Eastern Division Patriot Star**

Elizabeth Van Winkle, Roundtop

##### **Eastern Division Patroller Achievement Award**

Chris Chermak, Elk  
John Doherty, MD, Elk  
Alan Fortuner, Elk  
Anthony Rupe, Jr, Elk  
Ben Usatch, Elk

##### **NSP Yellow Merit Star**

Joe Pfisterer, Whitetail  
John Thompson, Whitetail  
Kristina Hoxha, Liberty  
Karen Robos, Camelback  
Tom Lurz, Camelback  
Bob Wohlschlegel, Roundtop  
Patrick Cusick, Montage (2016 Eastern Division OS Alpine Patroller)

**NSP Blue Merit Star**

Justin Guse, Camelback  
Ed Eccker, Camelback  
Anthony Clay, Camelback  
Christian Vismomini, Camelback  
Glenn Ferguson, Camelback  
Rick Shaak, Camelback

**Purple Merit Star**

Bonnie Clifton Frisbie, Montage

**50 Year Service Award**

Chet Smith  
Ralph Doederlein  
Greg Johnson  
Jack Lieby  
Tom Buckwalter  
Ronald Aucott  
Fred Tim  
Don Kahler

**VIII. Program Updates:****SOET - Ron Helm**

Division meeting has been moved back one week later than usual. Trying to work out details to get updates to patrols. I will share information as soon as possible. Make sure your patrols are registering their S&T refreshers so no one gets dropped off the list. Make sure you follow the steps for your S&T instructors so no one gets dropped off the instructor roster. TEs get refreshers with their recerts every 3 years. Local clinics are not scheduled yet—those dates are up to each mountain. Encourage your patrollers to sign up for any Patroller School. Howard Rosenthal questioned the TE re-certification and the ID component. Bob Bernatos will be looking in to getting more information for the S&T TEs. Howard said the requirements are listed under “OET Instructor Requirements.”

**OEC Refreshers - Dennis Zercher**

Last count 1,240 patrollers went through the region’s fall refreshers; there were 13 refreshers—4 of which were for instructors and 9 for patrollers. There is no reason that anyone should miss a refresher. Dual registration this year—one for NSP and one for our region. Glad we did our own EPA Eventbrite registration as National lost 91 registrants. Not sure how registration will be handled next year but leaning towards still doing dual registrations. Some people did not follow the instructions for the dual registrations. It caused a backup with the sign-in process at the OEC refreshers. People showed up without the required credentials. The few make it difficult for the mass. Patrol Directors should reinforce the information to patrollers so they know what will be required of them

to register and attend an OEC refresher. Encourage your patrollers to get everything done ahead of time instead of waiting. Staffing the refreshers worked out well. Major comments were "Content, Instructor Presentation, Organization and Flow worked out well." Working on getting a few people through this year's OEC refresher. Do not close out any courses until you hear from Bob Bernatos or Dennis because of issues at National. Dates for next year's refreshers are being posted online now. Con-Ed for Instructors will start next year at the Instructor Refreshers. We can either do a 1-1/2 hour session on one day or 1/2 hour sessions over the next 3 years. Dina Manoway asked if the roster link from National was working yet. Bob Bernatos said that he is not sure if we can trust that yet.

### **SOEC - Greg Johnson**

Had one evaluation last year due to a bad snowstorm. 72% pass rate. Next year dates for the clinics and evaluations are on the EPA.

### **YAP - Meghan Eckhart**

Last year's Blue Mountain YAP program was cancelled due to zero sign-ups and then 6 people wanted to attend. Registration in advance is required. Minimum age is 14. It's a great experience for the YAPs. This year's events are on the EPA calendar. I can not plan without knowing how many are coming. Bolton Valley, VT is hosting this year's Division YAP program. Part of the registration fee will be refunded to each YAP who writes and submits a brief essay after the YAP event. I will help any interested young adult find a mountain. Please contact me with any questions.

Bob Bernatos stated that Powderfall is offering 2 scholarships per Division for YAPs.

### **Safety - Jim Policelli**

Safety talks to clubs and organizations are still active, but the level of activity is decreasing due to ski clubs going out of business. I am available to talk with any organization. I have been doing this for 37 years. I had a request for some information from outside of the Region last year. I am planning on outlining in writing how this program has been run so that I can pass it on to anyone who might be interested in running this program.

### **MTR - Lou Marchi**

MTR class cancelled due to low sign-up. Next year it will be back down at Roundtop. It is a senior elective and is only a 2-day course and is a lot of fun. The NSP and National Park Service have teamed up for this program. Sharon Friedel gave information about the Eastern Division Advanced Patrollers School that was held at Blue Mountain and stated that program gets moved around to different mountains each year.

### **Avalanche - Rich Hartman**

An Avi program will be at Blue Mountain. If we don't have participants at these courses, the programs and instructors will dry up. Patrol Directors should encourage their patrollers to take advantage of these excellent programs. The focus is on keeping you, the skier, alive and safe so that you have enough skills to be aware of hazards in the mountains. This applies to all skiers, but all patrollers should be aware of this. We hope to have more participation.

### **Elections - Bob Bernatos for Matt Diloreto**

This coming year there will be elections for the Section Chiefs of the Southwest and Northern Sections. Talk to qualified candidates. Bob Bernatos's position will term out next year. Patrollers can submit their resumes to the election committee. Elections will start next fall. If anyone would like to talk to me about the requirements, I am available. However, I will remain impartial and not endorse anyone. National Board elections have been available at the refreshers. Discussion of the patrollers who are being endorsed by the Eastern Division was discussed. We are not telling you who to vote for; we encourage you to read their bios. In the past it has taken about 2,000 votes to elect a board member. The EPA region could effectively choose the winners if the EPA voter numbers increased. Patrol Directors should print out the "Vote" poster and hang it in their patrol rooms.

### **Alumni - Pat Cusick**

Alumni Dues are \$30. I am putting a minimum level on the Alumni ski event for 5 registrants. If we do not achieve that number, we will cancel.

### **Communications - Greg Mohr**

The NSP has a license for frequencies for various patrol training events. Narrowbanding has brought a few issues to NSP. Digital radios are coming by 2020.

### **Instructor Development - Brent Watts**

Camelback is hosting the regional fall ID class on December 4, 2016. We are also trying to hold another class in the Northern Section.

### **EMS - Bob Bernatos for Dave Hayes**

Narcan -- a lot of patrols have taken the initiative to include this protocol at their mountains. Make sure you have a local protocol written and with medical command overseeing it. Bob asked if anyone was having issues with the backboard protocols. No issues were mentioned.

### **Legal - Bob Bernatos for Tim Kelly**

Narcan will be discussed with Tim Kelly.

### **Medical - Bob Bernatos for Chet Smith**

Narcan will be discussed with our medical advisor.

**Professional Advisor - Joe Joyce**

Joe Joyce has stepped down. Position is available.

**Special Olympics - Bill Hudome**

Bill Hudome has retired from patrolling. The role needs to be defined before replacing an advisor.

**Women's Program - Inese Jardine**

Please let everyone know about this program. It will be held at Montage on February 25, 2017, which is the Saturday before the SOET exam. Sign up early. This event sells out. We do appreciate help from the men who haul the sleds up the mountain, so please contact me if you're willing to help.

**Nordic - Pete Snyder**

No report.

**Certified - Bob Bernatos for Brant Maley**

Certified pre-tests will be held up north this year.

**License Plates - Howard Rosenthal**

No change. If you're having any problems, please contact me. We are up to around 400 plates. You can get custom plates.

**Newsletter - Mark Clem**

I am the new newsletter editor. The next newsletter will be coming out in the spring. Possible monthly email blasts for all upcoming events so everyone can keep up to date. The new item I am planning on adding is a "get to know the every day rank and file patroller" which will consist of interviews to learn **why** various patrollers do what they do, get up early, travel, do this in the worst weather, etc. I have done this in the past at Whitetail, and the interview was posted on YouTube and the Whitetail Facebook page. I plan to travel up/down the PA region and Eastern Division and meet various members of the patrol. These interviews can be used as recruiting tools. Snow Pro Tees will sponsor this.

**Meeting Break from 11:21 AM to 11:41AM.**

**IX. Website - Bob Bernatos**

Please get your program changes and updates to Wolfgang as soon as possible. Make sure contact information is up to date. Program information must be kept current. The website is only as good as we make it.

**X. Finances - Bob Bernatos**

Bob presented the financial report and discussed the expenses for the upcoming programs. Equipment purchase has been very positive for this Region. Mark Clem questioned if there was a plan for equipment replacement in the future.

**XI. National, Division and Region News**

- National IT updates have kept us aware of the problems and solutions being put in place. Remaining issues were discussed. The utilization of National staff for IT issues was discussed. Dina Manoway questioned the budgeted amount for fixing IT issues. Discussion ensued. Dina would also like to see membership included in decisions of any future major changes. The importance of an IT position at National was discussed.
- Mountain Host program is at Spring Mountain and Bear Creek. The online course was discussed. A concern about the first aid portion was discussed. Mountain hosts are trained to address immediate life-threatening situations such as bleeding, breathing, and CPR, until patrollers arrive. Steve Sobolewski talked about the issue of what is considered an “emergency response” and PA protocols. Bob Bernatos stated that if the interest grows with this program, we might see a Region course offered every two years.
- Please vote in the elections for the National Board members.
- The Division and National finances are strong. There was a \$5 increase this year due to updating programs that were outdated. OEC 6th Edition planning starts this year.
- Bob asked if there were any questions on background checks. There were none.

**XII. Open Discussion**

Dina Manoway asked for clarification on why the OEC and S&T programs have different requirements for ITs being TEs. Sharon Friedel explained that years ago S&T TEs and ITs were the same. Dina would like to see this restructured. Discussion ensued. Bob said that he will add this issue to the list of things that should be reviewed.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Thanks to Blue Mountain for hosting today’s meeting. Thank you to everyone for attending. Motion made by Greg Mohr and seconded by Dina Manoway to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry