

Eastern Pennsylvania Region

Stated Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2017



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 9:41 AM on April 23, 2017 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. Dick Meyer (Roundtop), Scott Nedal (Jack Frost), Tom Jensen (Shawnee), Gene Stachokis (Bear Creek), Pete Lubin (Bear Creek), and Mark Ecker (Camelback).

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Greg Mohr and seconded by Jack Bogdon to approve the Minutes of the November 13, 2016 meeting; motion approved.

V. Introductions

Bill Jordan (Certified Chair for Eastern Division), Mark Clem, Flo Rutherford.

VI. Staff changes

Bobby Morgan is the Northern Section Chief
Bob Wohlschlegel is the Southwest Section Chief.
Ann Marie Igou is the Alumni Advisor
Mark Leukus is the SOEC Advisor
Evan Krichevsky is the Assistant SOEC Advisor
Mark Clem is the Newsletter Editor
Tom Kneiss is the Nordic Advisor
The new people will have their pictures uploaded on the website.

VII. Section Chief Reports

A. Northern - Bobby Morgan

- Big Bear at Mast Hope is adding a new magic carpet to their area; expanded tubing and snowmaking; concern about computer system glitches and losing volunteers saying the additional time is not worth it any more
- Elk Mountain had about 110 days; 4 new candidates; 1 full senior; looking ahead to 7 candidates and 1 transfer; they did a hybrid OEC which they felt worked out well; hosted annual Division Patroller School for about 110

people; S&T test was moved to Elk at the last minute due to tornado at Montage.

- Upper Delaware Nordic has good training with or without snow; one problem is with the secondary registration not appearing in patrollers' profiles; difficulty recruiting; they rely a lot on secondary patrollers.
- Montage had a tornado the day before the SOET exam with outdoor furniture breaking the windows of the lodge; 5 candidates; 1 transfer; 2 full Seniors; OEC cards are now being printed on special heavy paper; questioning if patrollers should be strapped down during training due to an incident that occurred this season; hosted Chicks on Sticks, Instructor Refresher, and OEC refresher.
- No report from the Hideout or Crystal Lake.

B. Pocono - Tony Alber

- Jack Frost 3 new patrollers; 6 new candidates; average age of adults is 30 years old; recruiting process with posters posted all around the property has been successful; continuing education with Narcan; hosted SOEC training; have new patrol directors.
- No report from Alpine.
- Ranchlands had a short season.
- Saw Creek got some patrollers from Alpine; had a lift evacuation with other mountains helping out.
- Big Boulder had 2 candidates; about 47 patrollers; using online calendar for patrollers to sign up for patrolling; 2 groomers were invited out west for competition.
- Shawnee has 3 new seniors; website working well; Shawnee had 2 deaths.
- Camelback had 12 new candidates plus 9 that started with S&T; 2 transfers; 3 Seniors; GM just left; Patrol Director Jack Bogdon is stepping down; policy that no more than 2 patrollers on a chair to talk lift safety with guests; new red light/green light system for unloading.
- Group would like to see the Patrol Directors have control over printing NSP cards.

C. Southwest - Bob Wohlschlegel

- Roundtop, Whitetail, Liberty: NSP database needs to be updated; patrol directors should be able to update records; SOEC program was discussed and feedback will be passed up the chain; meeting to discuss

standardization and the use of CPI's; Whitetail's management is capping number of patrollers; continuing to work on building a relationship with management; Roundtop is going to do the online hybrid with training on weekends; was a tough challenging year.

D. Central - Inese Jardine

- Bear Creek's 1Risk reporting program going well; Mountain Host program is working well; lift evac July 8th & 9th and they welcome others; EMT Bridge Course is being offered; 2 patrollers passed away: Gene Stachokis and Pete Lubin.
- Blue Mountain had a good season; recruiting and retention is a concern; working on getting people more actively involved
- No report from Eagle Rock
- Spring Mountain has new patrol director; things are working smoothly; looking at online reporting; planning an advanced lift evac; running Senior OEC program every Wednesday.
- Valley Forge is a year-round endeavor; working on bike patrol training; Memorandum is working; good relationship with National Parks.

Bob Bernatos discussed adding individual patrol's "On-the-Hill" dates to the Region calendar and opening them up to outside patrollers.

Bike Patrol is growing in NSP. Rick Shandler is going to work on this.

VIII. Awards - Steve Buzzard

E DIV Patroller Achievement Award:

MONTAGE:

Robert Strongy
Peter Rozdilski
David Oswell
Richard Hopkins

ELK:

Richard Suraci
Stephen Suraci
Trip Crowley
Thomas Ludka
Frederick Waeldner
Alan Ketcha

Hank Jansen Outstanding Rescue Award:

David Hammond, Whitetail

National Appointment:

Inese Jardine #11870, Bear Creek
Don Kahler #11898, Camelback
Howard Rosenthal #11896, Jack Frost

EPA 2016-2017 Outstanding Awards:

Large Alpine Patrol: Roundtop
Instructor: Kristina Hoxha, Liberty
OEC Instructor: Fred Tim, Camelback
Patrol Representative: Steve Sobolewski, Liberty
Alpine Patroller: Kurt Adam, Bear Creek
Paid Patroller: Dave Smith, Roundtop

Steve gave a comprehensive presentation on the awards system and procedures.

IX. Program Updates:

SOET - Ron Helm

Thanked all the Regions TE's and Instructors. Thanked Elk for hosting the last minute change to the SOET exam. Good pass rate this season. Working on patrollers being pre-qualified prior to the exam.

OEC Refreshers - Dennis Zercher

OEC online classes are working. It's initially time-consuming to set up, but it runs well once it is set up. There is a lot of help for anyone who wants to make the switch. OEC Refresher dates are on the website. OEC administrators would appreciate Wi-Fi access at all locations. OEC Refresher planning meetings will occur this summer.

SOEC - Mark Leukus

I took over this program mid-season. 80% pass rate this year. Need to work on dropout rate. We are looking in to the CPI issue. Dates are not yet set for next season. There will be 3 clinics and 2 evaluations.

Bob Bernatos discussed how other Regions handle the SOEC testing. Suggestions will be brought to the Division meeting.

YAP - Meghan Eckhart

Contact Meghan if you have any students at your mountain. She will get all available information to them to get them active within this program.

Safety - Jim Policelli

In the early years, we had 2 to 3 teams giving safety lectures. Over the years, clubs became less active. This year we had no requests for safety lectures. Howard Rosenthal discussed safety talks to school groups and children. Bob

Bernatos stated that National has safety literature and free swag (pay for shipping charges).

MTR - Lou Marchi

This year's course was cancelled due to lack of participation.

Avalanche - Rich Hartman

Six attendees at this year's course. Next year's course will be at Roundtop.

Women's Program - Inese Jardine

Thank you Montage for hosting this program. It was well attended. All ski abilities are accepted. Can only accept 21 women, and the course fills up quickly. February 24, 2018 at Montage.

Meeting break from 11:20AM to 11:30 AM.

X. Elections - Bob Bernatos for Matt DiLoreto

Elections for the Northern and Southwest Section Chiefs were held in the spring. Elections this fall for new Region Director. If anyone is interested, get your nomination package to Matt DiLoreto. Sharon Friedel has committed to running for RD. The voting format will be the same.

Communications - Greg Mohr

National will help with licensing.

Instructor Development - Brent Watts

There will be classes May 7, 2017 and June 25, 2017. More information is posted on the website calendar. If your patrol has 6 plus people who are interested, we will hold a class at your patrol.

Bob Bernatos talked about an upcoming change to Instructor Con-Eds.

Legal - Tim Kelly

Things are quiet. Bob Bernatos advised that new term limits have been set for Committees. Bob Scarlett who was the National legal advisor for 20 years will step down in January 2018

Medical - Bob Bernatos for Dave Hayes

Narcan dosages have been updated.

License Plates - Howard Rosenthal

There was an issue with a license plate that held things up. Some people's licenses were delayed. It is now working again.

Website - Wolfgang

Keep program information current. Check your contact information to keep it up to date. Bob Bernatos stated that there will be changes to various positions updated. Some programs are being removed. Some patrols no longer exist.

XI. National Elections - Bill Jordan

There will be a representative at every refresher this season to discuss elections with patrollers. Bill discussed the changes to positions at the National level and how it will effect patrollers. Outside influence in running certain programs will increase costs. Significant changes to OEC course hours are being considered, which Bill states is detrimental to our current program. Bill asked everyone to get proactive with their patrollers to increase patroller voting. EPA only had 17% of patrollers vote at the last election. Ways to increase voting within the Region was discussed.

XII. Recruiting/Staffing - Mark Clem

Mark discussed the video promoting tool which he started producing and how it can be used for recruiting. Mark has been visiting various mountains and conducting online interviews of why patrollers do what they do. It has been successful.

XIII. National, Division and Region News

- 50-year membership is now automatic.
- National IT issues have improved. Check all the individual patroller profiles and their certifications and instructor statuses. All issues should go to Customer Care. Contact Bob Bernatos if you have problems.

XIV. Introduction to Patrolling/Patrolling 101 - Bob Bernatos

Jack Frost and Big Boulder currently run this course. This course teaches “the little things” that patrollers need to know in addition to OEC and OET. Bob will be reviewing this course during the summer. Bob would like to know what other patrols would be interested in implementing this course.

XV. Finances - Bob Bernatos

Jack Bogdon is the new Treasurer, replacing Maryellen Martin. Bob previously emailed the financial reports and budget to the EPA staff and advisors. The budget is currently running on a deficit. Most programs break even. If programs are under-enrolled, they lose money. The cost to run the OEC refreshers has increased due to traveling reimbursements. Bob proposed a dues increase of \$2/year. Discussion ensued about increasing the dues to \$5/year. A motion was made by Paul Spear to increase the dues to \$5/year. Dina Manoway seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. A vote was taken. The motion carried.

XVI. Open Discussion

None.

XVII. Adjournment

Thanks to Blue Mountain for hosting today's meeting. Thank you to everyone for attending. Motion made by Rick Shandler and seconded by Steve Buzzard to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry