

# Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes April 19, 2020



Sharon Friedel, Region Director, called to order the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region at 9:00 AM on April 19, 2020 via Zoom virtual meeting (Covid-19 restrictions). Zoom meeting etiquette and questions were addressed.

A moment of silence was held for Edward Hirshman, Roundtop.

A motion was made by Bob Bernatos and seconded by Greg Mohr to approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2019 meeting; motion carried.

## Introductions/Staff Changes:

Central Section Chief – Leigh Linder  
Region Delegate at Large – Mark Miller  
Jack Frost PD – Thomas Csongradi  
Elections Advisor – Inese Jardine

## SECTION CHIEF REPORTS:

### Northern - Bobby Morgan

- **Montage:** Great snow; successful holiday weeks/weekends; SOEC clinic; Women's Clinic cancelled; impromptu clinic for nine women; six candidates and one challenge; four completed SOET; nine candidates for next year.
- **Big Bear at Masthope:** Completed online class with 11 candidates and one secondary; first to be 100% open; Special Olympics every Monday and the year-end race; 990 filed on March 30th.
- **Elk:** Five full seniors plus two SOEC and two SOET; four YAP patrollers and one working on OET; one certified candidate; Patroller School; SOET exam; 60 West Point cadets; management supported NSP by donating 140 lift tickets for programs; Howie Wyandt and John Doherty received 50-year lifetime award; 102 skiing days; all paperwork should be brought to refreshers; "years of service pins" are often out of stock.
- **Hideout:** Opened January 24th; closed March 1st; hired consultant for winter sports arena; new mountain manager; new groomer for tubing; obtained combiboard through grant; magic carpets next year; no ice skating; pored concrete at bottom of mountain; lost some patrol space; have six patrollers plus two secondary patrollers; can use help Friday night, Saturday, Sunday.
- **Upper Delaware Nordic:** Had a little snow in the beginning of season; did a lot of hiking; search for a lost hunter that ended successfully.

A motion was made by Bobby Morgan and seconded by Greg Mohr for the EPA Region to donate \$300 to the Eastern Division Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Edward Hirshman; motion carried.

### Pocono - Tony Alber

- **Saw Creek:** New groomer, snow guns, snowmaking pump, and storage building; lift improvements; two new OEC patrollers; one left for Jack Frost; other might not return; all ski patrol functions taken over by management; Perry Sherman is doing a great job.
- **Big Boulder:** One candidate from the fall OEC class; changes from Vail resorts; new signs; patrollers wear helmets; awards were given out for serious accident from prior year; Mike Dodge given Distinguished Service Award; problems with OET instructor status being out of date.
- **Camelback:** DERT survey on effect of accidents on patrollers; Ropes Committee; elections for volunteer board; KSL bought Camelback last year; lost some patrollers due to "hiring" process; one SOEC; four SOET; one SOET TE; four OET training days led by Region staff; hosted Geisinger annual cross-training day.

- **Shawnee:** No report.
- **Ranchlands:** Bad season; 83 guests total.
- **Jack Frost:** Donated their PPE stock; Tom Csongradi is new Patrol Co-Director with Tom Davis; no changes from Vail yet; one senior; five new patrollers; two candidates; one transfer; one YAP; waiting for OEC 6 rollout before planning class; Subaru WinterFest attended by Region staff and Assistant Division Director Cal Goldsmith; segment on TV for “how to become a patroller.”

#### **Southwest - Jay Thompson**

- **Roundtop, Liberty, and Whitetail** - Vail acquisition; hoping for stability and guidance; switching to Vail operating system and patient care software; snowmaking strategies improved; uncertain if Vail supports OFC; no plans to re-certify OFC; Mountain Ops hybrid online course refined to allow real-time tracking; pandemic ended season early but still did well; accidents were down; Roundtop - two new OEC instructors; four seniors; Liberty - one senior; and Whitetail - two seniors; total active patrollers at Liberty 82; at Whitetail 109; candidate class is @25; questions on OEC class and social distancing; struggled with OEC and OET delinquencies; concerned about National’s “Goggles for Docs” program; AT&T FirstNet program puts burden on the PDs. Ryan Barone outlined the Mountain Ops program.

#### **Central - Leigh Linder**

- **Spring Mountain:** Six OEC candidates, five passed; four OET candidates passed; SOEC exam; banquet on hold; three transfers; six members through OEC challenge - all EMTs; 89 incidents record low.
- **Blue Mountain:** Long season; eight candidates; four alpine patrollers; two YAPs; family of active patrollers spanning three generations; one SOET; banquet delayed; 892 incidents.
- **Valley Forge Nordic:** Bike patrol is active.
- **Bear Creek:** Training went well; 20th anniversary; 85 days - longest season on record; seven full patrollers; ten OET candidates, nine passed; banquet cancelled; currently 132 patrollers; 65 mountain hosts are CPR and OFC certified; 350 incidents - higher than normal.
- **Eagle Rock:** Opened this season after being closed; weekend days only; 11 patrollers; one SOEC; four-season resort; currently closed; hope to open shortly.

A motion was made by Greg Mohr and seconded by David Marks to approve the Section Chief Reports; motion carried.

**National Board Updates - Bob Scarlett, National Board Member** National is working remotely. Executive Director Meegan Moszynski applied for Payroll Protection Program loan; \$200,000 will turn in to grant. Not sure how pandemic will effect mountains; planning for the worst; hoping for the best. OEC 6 on schedule; books available in May; cost \$93 for patrollers. Active on Governance Committee, Finance Committee; Chairman of By-Laws and Oversight Committee. YAP Committee is completing Youth Protection Policy. Mountain hosts’ recertifications, voting privileges; a new way to become a mountain host incorporating risk management assistance at accidents. Spring runs OFC refresher every November. Would like to see NSP be proactive in reaching out to areas with consolidated management. EPA region’s importance in elections.

**Treasurer’s Report - Ken Reese** Fiscal year is April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Income: \$23,658; Expenses: \$29,712; Deficit: \$6,054. Sharon will contact each program advisor about establishing budgets. May have to consider producing more income. Investment account moved to Edward Jones. Merrill Lynch no longer supported non-profits. Working capital: \$8,050. Investment account is down due to the market: \$42,000 Reserves should be 1.5 to 2 times annual spending; keep at least \$45,000 in reserves. Only eight patrols out of 20 have submitted 990s. Please submit ASAP and make sure they balance. 990s are due at Division.

A motion was made by Howard Rosenthal and seconded by Greg Mohr to approve the Treasurer’s Report; motion carried.

## **PROGRAM/ADVISOR UPDATES:**

**Alumni - Jim Cahill** Will reach out to 378 alumni for input on activity level and involvement. Tony Alber and Rich Messina invited Alumni to Camelback for an Alumni Day. Vail should offer better discount to Alumni. Plan ski trips to western US and Europe. Contacting each PD about using Alumni. Division meeting this week with regional advisors. Would like to know who has active alumni programs.

**Avalanche - Rich Hartman** Held at Blue Mountain; class size limited to 16 due to instructor injuries. Next year at Roundtop either February 6th or 13th. Pre-course online is 6-8 hours. First half of Avalanche class is indoors; second half is outdoors with avalanche path ID; slope angle studies; test pits; snow analysis; transceiver searches; and mock rescue scenarios. Takes a few years to become an avalanche instructor. EPA has enough instructors for the next five years. New people are entering program.

**Awards - David Marks** Division Awards Advisor is moving towards online nominations.

Awards processed (38):

- National Appointments: 5
- Distinguished Service Awards: 3
- Purple Merit Stars: 4
- Blue Merit Star: 8
- Yellow Merit Stars: 3
- Eastern Division Patriot Star: 3
- Outstanding Awards: 9
- EPA Regional Awards: 3

Division Awards Banquet in the fall. Tony Alber suggested an award for patrollers working on the front line of the pandemic.

**Certified - Sharon Friedel for Brant Maley** Event was cancelled and will be held next year at Sugarloaf.

**Communications - Greg Mohr** Can help with FCC licensing, renewals, frequency coordination, and interference. Some places having issues with public safety entities and frequency coordination. Can help with ATT FirstNet questions. National radio equipment program has been renewed. Power Works increased warranty; available with digital and P-25 protocol. Patrol Directors should ICS pre-plan with local EMS and air medical.

### **Elections – Inese Jardine**

- Delegate at Large, Mark Miller, First Term
- Pocono Section, Tony Alber, Term 3
- Central Section, Leigh Linder, First Term
- Region Director, Sharon Friedel, Term 2
- NBOD – Candidates to be advised late summer and voting at fall refreshers

**Instructor Development – Brent Watts** ID class was held last December at Spring for eight people; spring class was cancelled. Next class is December 5, 2020 at Spring.

**Legal – Tim Kelly** Legislatively, nothing is new in PA. Case in Monroe County where a skier sued another skier for getting hit. Judge dismissed case saying that skiing assumes risks. An area could be held responsible if they don't remove a visibly intoxicated skier and someone gets hurt. Tim Kelly will look at National By-Laws about alumni who maintain OEC certification and providing care.

**MIST – Wolfgang Boernert** Website has been operating well; news page gets updated; advisors need to provide current content to Wolfgang. Region uses Constant Contact for email blasts. If patrollers unsubscribe,

they won't receive emails; can't get back on list unless they re-subscribe. EMS certifications require manual renewals by logging in and requesting recertification.

**MTR – Lou Marchi** Great year at Jack Frost with over 30 students; Howard Rosenthal was IOR. Second year using UTM grid coordinated with search and rescue component; appears to be well received. Next event at Roundtop on November 21 - 22, 2020. Registration fee is increasing from \$35 to \$40. Course is a senior elective and can be taken multiple times.

**Nordic – Tom Kneiss** - Worst snow season; struggle to recruit and retain patrollers; one snowstorm allowed patrollers to practice cross-country skills. Required patrol days were spent hiking and clearing trails. Land navigation was reviewed and practiced. NordicFest was held at McCauley in February. Continue to perform year-round duties such as bike patrol, Hug a Tree presentations, and trail maintenance.

**OEC – Dennis Zercher** OEC 6 is being released May 11, 2020. Online hybrid will be ready July 1st. Division rollout at the end of May or early June. OEC instructors must complete rollout before running courses. Fall refresher schedule is on EPA calendar. There will only be three instructor refreshers: Roundtop, Blue, Montage. Trying to cut OEC program expense of \$16,000. People not following registration instructions. Had 144 on delinquent list. Will require proof of National course registration, EPA EventBrite ticket, workbook, and hybrid certificate at OEC refreshers. Don't show up without them.

**PA License Plate Program – Howard Rosenthal** Running well. To offer motorcycle license plates, EPA must file a new application with additional fees. Wolfgang will send email blast to see how many might be interested in motorcycle plates. A new volunteer for this project if Region moves forward. Looking for successor.

**Pro Program – Terry Ownes** Challenging year with Vail transition. Pro patrollers required to monitor lift lines. Impromptu Pro Day with patrollers from southern area of region. Five areas in region are part of Vail family.

**Risk Management – Sharon Friedel for Ed Kupillas** PPE importance; areas concerned about virus control; remember to wash hands and wear mask; expect illness control plans going forward.

**Secretary - Nancy Mayberry** Nothing to report.

**SOEC - Mark Leukus** Attendance down; eight candidates; six passed; 75% pass rate. Registration fee may increase. Would like to move events around to different areas. TE recertification cancelled due to pandemic; may reschedule in November. Will run two clinics and one evaluation next year; will not add second evaluation unless first one fills up. Open to feedback on how to increase interest in program.

**SOET - Ron Helm** Worked around conditions and weather. OET test at Elk with 21 candidates; 19 passed. Could not hold TE meeting before Christmas; would like meeting at beginning of January. Travelled to mountains with small group of TEs to help with training. Program is strong with excellent TEs.

**YAP – Megan Eckhart** Two regional events; weather effected attendance; OET/OEC day with 14 YAPs. Division YAP event cancelled effected 16 people traveling to event. Next year's event at Smugglers' Notch in March. Currently have 22 YAPs from six mountains. Let Megan know if you have any YAPs.

**Women's – Inese Jardine** Event was cancelled. Every Patroller School offers a women's program.

## **NATIONAL, DIVISION, REGION UPDATES - Sharon Friedel**

### **REGION**

**OEC – 6e** is on schedule for May. Courses – start after July 1. Rollout being scheduled.

**ICS 100** – Patrol Reps should be verifying all patrollers have completed the course. Candidates must complete during their candidate year with their OEC class.

**990's** – Please submit to Ken Reese ASAP to [treasurer@nspepa.org](mailto:treasurer@nspepa.org)

**PROGRAM ADVISORS** – Please submit your budget to Sharon (include mileage). Approvals for reimbursement. Send website updates to Wolfgang – advertise your program!

**COURSES** – Completions and Course Closings. IOR vs IT – cannot be the same person. Email notifications of courses not closed (IOR and Program Advisor).

## **DIVISION**

**EVENTS** – All events that had to be cancelled should have been refunded by end of March. Thanks to “PatrollerSchool.org!”

**MEETINGS** – All face to face meetings have been cancelled until further notice. Most meetings are being scheduled via Zoom virtual platform. This includes the Spring Officers' Meeting. The fall meeting will include Section Chiefs and the Spring Awards Banquet.

**ELECTIONS** – Eastern Division will again be putting up a slate of candidates. The names will be announced late summer and elections to take place during fall refreshers.

DD – John Kane is terming out. Cal Goldsmith is only candidate.  
John Kane will be running for the National Board.

## **NATIONAL:**

**NATIONAL BOARD** – Brian Rull elected as National Chair and Chris Pringle as Asst. National Chair. Newest board members Paul Kelly, Liz Dodge and Marc Abend.

**NATIONAL OFFICE** – Office is shut down. Several are working from home. Please expect delays. Best to email them.

**AT&T/FIRST NET** – Partnership with NSP. All OEC Techs received email/invitation.

**COVID-19** – Visit the [nsp.org](http://nsp.org) home page to see how you can help. If you know of local opportunities, email the info to [marketing@nsp.org](mailto:marketing@nsp.org)

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- Request for process on how to sign off on instructors be added to website.
- Would like to remove the requirement to include profile on instructor application; National has profile.
- Powderfall will be at Breckenridge April 7-11, 2021.

## **Awards Presentation**

Previously Presented

- **Patriot Star Award:** Paul Dovin, Mast Hope
- **Purple Merit Star:** Michael Fitch – Big Boulder
- **Blue Merit Star:** Cody Friedel, Theodore Vasburgh, Russel Cramer, Tiffany Timko – Big Boulder – all for incident that occurred in January where patient was 75' off trail.
- **Yellow Merit Star:** Ryan Overberger, Big Boulder
- **National Appointment:** Steven Lorish of Bear Creek, #12154
- **Distinguished Service Award:** Michael Dodge, Big Boulder

Presented Today:

- **Patriot Star Award** – Jonathan Stewart, Elk Mountain
- **Patriot Star Award** – Rich Messina, Camelback
- **Purple Merit Star** – Mark Kearns, Roundtop – saving a life in Stone Harbor NJ
- **Purple Merit Star** – Kim Colquhoun
- **Blue Merit Star** – Lisa Iannamico, Noah Cook, Nicholas Bonamo, Steven Polansky - All of Jack Frost for an incident that occurred in January involving a fall from the lift.
- **Yellow Merit Star** – Michael Fitch, Big Boulder – for leadership and work as an OEC Instructor
- **Yellow Merit Star** – Steven Andre, Elk Mountain – for dedication, work as an OEC Instructor and work with Young Adult Patrollers
- **Outstanding Paid Patrol Director** – Brent Watts, Spring Mountain
- **Outstanding Volunteer Patrol Rep** – Gerald Dulay, Mast Hope
- **Outstanding Administrative Patroller** – Jack Bogdon, Camelback
- **Outstanding OEC Instructor** – Kristina Hoxha, Ski Liberty
- **Outstanding Instructor** – Michael Jarriel, Ski Liberty
- **Outstanding Nordic Patroller** – Nancy Pietroski, Valley Forge Nordic Patrol
- **Outstanding Alpine Patroller** – William Zink, Whitetail Ski Patrol
- **Outstanding Nordic Patrol** – Upper Delaware Nordic
- **Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol** – Camelback Ski Patrol
- **Ed Hirshman Award for Service** – Steve Buzzard, Roundtop
- **Irv Naylor Partners in Industry Award** – Blue Mountain Resort
- **EPA Region Director's Appreciation Award** – Ron Helm, Roundtop
  
- **National Appointment #12166** – Tony Alber, Camelback – recognition of leadership and years of service to all who ski.
- **Distinguished Service Award** – Keith Winot, Camelback – for relentless service and mentoring to Patrollers of the NSP

Motion made by Cathy Long and seconded by Howard Rosenthal to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 PM; motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry

EPA Fall Line Officers Meeting  
Sunday, November 15, 2020  
Location: Blue Mountain