

# Eastern Pennsylvania Region Meeting Minutes April 14, 2024



## Call To Order

**Region Director** Kurt Adam called to order the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region at 9:14AM on April 14, 2024 at Blue Mountain Resort.

## Moment Of Silence

Kurt Adam called for a motion of silence in memory of the following patroller:

- Hank Moore - Big Valley/Hahn Mountain

**Motion** made by Bill Bock, seconded Brian DeFluri to recognize Hank Moore; motion carried.

## Reading of Minutes

**Motion** made by Sharon Friedel, seconded Greg Mohr to waive the reading of the minutes from the November 2023 meeting and approve as presented; motion carried.

## Introductions/Staff Changes

Kurt Adam introduced the following staff changes:

- Kurt Adam - Region Director
- Brian DeFluri - Instructor Development Advisor
- Dina Manoway - Pocono Section Chief
- Bob Fidiam - Montage Mountain Patrol Rep
- Mike Ksenich - Certified Advisor

## Section Chief Reports

### Pocono - Dina Manoway

- Big Boulder was open for 85 days this season and has transitioned away from terrain parks to be more family focused as a new general manager arrived.. Incident count was down for the season, though there were some challenges with enforcement of drug/alcohol policies. The mountain hosted their first pond skim event; also hosted two lift evacuation drills, one at night, one with the state. One OEC candidate.
- Jack Frost has no candidates this year or next due to having a full roster; but plan to open up the following year. Three patrollers completed Senior OEC. There are four new OEC instructors, looking for approval to host an OEC refresher.
- Shawnee was open for 92 days, improvements this year focused on snowmaking; they now have the ability to turn off individual guns when an incident is underneath it.

Implemented unseated passenger plan, working through some issues. There were 3 candidates.

- Pocono Ranchlands did not open for the 3rd year in a row. The mountain has lost its grandfather status for lift, but management plans to reopen.
- Saw Creek was only open weekends and holidays, but had a fantastic year with very few incidents. The mountain took every snowmaking opportunity. Patrollers have been cross-trained on grooming and snowmaking. The mountain took delivery of new snow guns and a new groomer and is focusing on training lift operators on how to load guests on the lift.
- Camelback reported concerns about the national database and missing info. Last season, there were 8 candidates.

### Southwest - Jay Thompson

- Whitetail operated for 66 days this past season, with all trails open; albeit only some for a week. Presidents Day weekend had an 8 mile backup to get into the resort. Discussion of issues with volunteer patrollers; more than 80 percent of membership is volunteer; the highest proportion across all Vail resorts.
- Liberty saw a resignation of their paid patrol director.
- Whitetail and Liberty had a combined OEC class with 22 candidates; having trouble finding a venue to host the class.
- Roundtop had 6 transfers in; 13 candidates were accepted into the program, but only half participated.
- For all 3 mountains, less interest in the senior program than in years past;

### Central - Leigh Linder

- Blue Mountain had a slow start to the season, but did get to 100% open; it was the last resort open in PA. The patrol hosted an EMS day with St. Lukes, did a safety tent event over President's Weekend, and hosted a YAP event with 15 participants. . The mountain added more snow guns and expanded tubing with lighting. The patrol had 13 candidates last season and one new senior. There are 18 candidates for next season. The patrol will be active during this summer's bike park season.
- Spring Mountain had a good season, all school programs had sold out and the ice rink was well attended. The mountain purchased a new snow cat and an additional "Big Rita" snowmaking system is on order to be placed further up the hill. The patrol is actively recruiting and will be working on a senior aid room module.
- Eagle Rock was open all season except for a week. The owners are spending money on upgrades, including two new carpet lifts. There was a low number of accidents this season. Visiting patrollers are welcomed.
- Valley Forge Nordic had a relatively quiet season. Abram Shandler won a YAP division award.
- Bear Creek was open for 69 days, however was closed for MLK holiday due to lack of snow. This past season there were six new patrollers, there are ten potential candidates for the fall. One patroller passed Senior OET. The mountain will be hosting a national mountain bike event in July.

### Northern - Jerry Washo

- Montage Mountain has a new patrol director and hosted several region events this year. Seven candidates became full patrollers this past season and one patroller passed Senior OET. The patrol is working to re-tool their OET program and will be focusing on promoting OET and OEC instructors to Instructor Trainers next season. The patrol has been volunteering with local marathons.
- The Hideout discussed the benefits of being a small locally owned ski mountain. They were open for ten weeks and added new safety signs and equipment.
- Big Bear at Masthope Mountain had record volunteer hours this past season. Multiple visiting patrollers were welcomed.
- Upper Delaware Nordic had a short season with only four or five ski days. Patrollers are on hand for year round activities
- Elk Mountain is for sale. Four candidates passed last season and are new full patrollers. There are five new YAPs (nine total) and several patrollers that became seniors. The mountain hosted both a division Patroller School and the region's Senior OET exam.

**Motion** made by Greg Mohr and seconded by Brent Watts to approve the Section Chief Reports; motion carried.

### **Program/Advisor Updates**

#### License Plate - David Ehrlich

- One order was fulfilled during the season, there are two pending. Cumulatively, 322 numbered plates have been ordered. Discussion of an issue with plates not getting read by state police vehicles.

#### Treasurer - David Ehrlich

##### *Since Fall meeting:*

- Total Income \$18,106.10
- Total Expenses \$8,060.32
- Net Income \$10,045.78
- Bank Account Balance \$16,313.01 (up from \$11,883.61)
- Edward Jones Account: \$88,773.78 (up from \$75,526.96)
  
- There is discussion about moving some of the balance over to a more secure account with higher interest.
- Reimbursements are now primarily via Zelle, it's strongly preferred over paper checks
- Expense reports must go to the program advisor first, then to the Region Director, then to the Treasurer.
- 990 tax reporting season is almost here; there is a new 990 each year, and you cannot reuse last year's forms, but the categories are the same for this year; Fiscal year ends June 30th and patrols have 2 weeks to submit the form. 990s will be emailed out to each patrol towards the end of June; you cannot download from the web.
- Sales tax exemptions - The division has a spreadsheet where you can make patrol purchases tax free - including Amazon, Walmart, Lowes, and more.

**Motion** made by Sharon Friedel and seconded by Bobby Morgan to approve the Treasurer's report; motion carried.

### Secretary – Mike Woodruff

- Taking over the role has been smooth; glad to be working with everyone.

### Avalanche Program & MTR - Lou Marchi

- IORs for avalanche courses must be certified; but nobody in the region currently is due to the cost. Interest in the program has been waning in recent years, no events are planned for the upcoming season.
- Kurt Adam discussed senior elective requirements and shared his appreciation for having courses available in the region and plans to inquire about how we can make the program more accessible in the region.

### Awards – David Marks

- Awards to be presented later in the meeting include:
  - 1 yellow merit star, another is in the works
  - 1 Distinguished Service award; an additional one from the division
  - 10 Outstanding Awards were nominated; 5 went on to the division
  - 1 National Appointment
  - 1 Patrollers Cross
  - 1 new Patriot Star; 2 re-issued
  - 3 EPA awards
- Discussion of the two senior classifications (Senior Alpine vs Senior Patroller) - and that the latter has an additional aid room procedures requirement, which several members in the region members are currently in. Discussion about non-Alpine senior patrollers pulling sleds; they can as long as they are SOET certified

### Certified - Kurt Adam for Brant Maley

- Appreciation for Lauren Olinsky who is currently at Gore, was previously at Whitetail
- Bill Zink was appointed as Eastern Division Certified program chair

### Communication - Greg Mohr

- Available to help program radios, reach out for assistance
- FirstNet is still available, reach out with questions or visit the national site. Each patrol should have an advisor to manage the program.

### Elections - Kurt Adam for John

- Sharon Friedel is now the region's Delegate at Large
- Dina is now Pocono Section Chief

### Instructor Development - Brian DeFluri

- Just starting in position.
- There are two 2 classes planned for this summer; the first had such a high level of interest that a new class was opened to accommodate demand
- Working to rewrite all communications

- There's 2 courses, one that's fully online, then a Zoom class you can sign up for. Approximately 10% of students had trouble registering.

#### EMS – Eric Snyder

- Working on expanding EMS relationships across the region, several successful programs, looking to have more mountains host
- No EMT bridge course this summer; aiming to host every other year; not a required NSP course, but is beneficial to patrollers
- Working on more conEd courses; non-EMS providers are welcome to attend
- Kurt Adam shared that the East Allen Fire Department would like to make a donation to the region to purchase OEC equipment due to ceasing operations
- Kurt Adam discussed some of the EMT requirements, especially focusing on con-ed and offering more con-ed opportunities.

#### MIST - Wolfgang Boernert

- The website is getting updated; advisors are requested to provide updated information.
- Discussed a few circumstances where national lost patroller records; recommends all patrollers and patrols maintain a backup

#### OEC - Sharon Friedel for Dennis Zercher

- The OEC season will kick off with a planning meeting in June, followed by IT refreshers in August
- All Fall refreshers are now in the region calendar

#### Senior OEC - Sharon Friedel for Chris Whitpan

- There is a focus on the senior aid room module; it hasn't been done in the region in several years; new requirements on who can be the IT/IOR for this module.
- There were two clinics and two evaluations this past season; participation was up
- Planning on two clinic and two evaluations next season

#### Pro Program - Terry Ownes

- Discussion about the different responsibilities that pro patrollers have from volunteers volunteers; prospective pro patrollers are encouraged to reach out

#### Outdoor Risk Management - Phil Barker

- Discussion about how the program was developed; it's an online program that just launched last month
- Encouragement for pro patrollers and Patrol Directors to take the course as it contains helpful information for interacting with legal and insurance teams. It can be completed in approximately three hours.
- Discussed how Big Bear was not able to run an OEC course and that Bear Creek will be helping train candidates

### Safety - Jen Rinker

- The safety tent is available; 2 mountains used it this year.
- Draft goals for Safety team are to retain the NSP East leadership position, update the region webpage, order additional giveaways, encouraging patroller safety, and to expand events across region

### Senior OET – Chrissy Ludka

- There are currently 55 staff members. Monthly Zoom calls are being held amongst the staff.
- Discussion about Movement Analysis.
- If smaller mountains don't have staff to teach Senior OET, please reach out; there is plenty of staff to help
- Camelback hosted a mini clinic this past season
- There is discussion about creating an intro to TE program for the region
- The Senior OET evaluation was March 3rd at Elk Mountain; 19 candidates, all of whom passed
- Aiming to have an in-person staff meeting; looking for a mountain to host
- Kurt discussed his experience with the program this year and the relationship with the PSIA instructors; reiterated the importance of the senior program and that it can be run at any mountain; it doesn't need specific terrain for training. 4 instructors from the region are becoming PSIA level 1 instructors

### YAP – Megan Eckhart

- Discussed how Eastern Division is the most active in terms of hosting events
- This year's event was held this year at Blue Mountain; 16 YAPs participated; 14 patrollers were helping. Events cover OET, OEC, and other skills.
- Discussed the benefits of holding a scavenger hunt; helps break the ice on talking with guests
- The Eastern Division YAP submit was at Smugglers Notch, 3 YAPs from the region participated in the competition track, 10 participated in the enhancement track
- Discussed the Hans Hyson Award and the James Slattery Award and their requirements
- Requested patrol directors encourage the YAP program; prospective YAPs can register at nsp.org to register without having to pay dues
- Discussed how there are active discussions between Vail and NSP on the future of YAP programs at their resorts
- Discussion of how YAP mountain hosts are able to participate in events
- Discussion of how if participates write an essay about their experience; if they do, they get reimbursed \$100
- Jen Rinder discussed YAP fundraising events at Blue Mountain, encouraging other patrols to reach out to collaborate.
- Sharon clarified that alumni dues typically to go cover YAP expenses.
- Discussed background check and youth protection training requirements; at least one person working an event with YAPs must have the training, ideally one male and one female

**Motion** made by Sharon Friedel and seconded by Dina Manoway to codify reimbursement of up to \$100 for each YAP in the region that completes a YAP event and submits a written essay; motion carried.

### Women's Program – Leigh Linder

- Two programs were held this past season, one at Elk Mountain, one at Blue Mountain; participants came from countless mountains across the region

### Other Programs

- No updates available from Alumni Program, Historian, Legal Counsel, Medical Advisor, and Nordic/Backcountry Programs.

**Motion** made by Bobby Morgan and seconded by Bill Bock to approve the Program Advisor Reports; motion carried.

### **Other Updates**

Kurt Adam provided the following updates from the division and national office:

- Trail Sweep is coming via email; submissions are welcomed via the Eastern Division website (click “contact the editor”)
- Patroller School website - all programs are on the site

Sharon Friedel provided the following updates shared from national board member Bob Scarlett just before the meeting:

- Powderfall is happening this weekend, most board members are there.
- Discussed the relationship between Vail and the national office; especially as it pertains to their east coast mountains. There is an upcoming meeting; asking for Vail mountains to relay concerns to their section chiefs to relay to Kurt Adam to share with Stephanie Cox
- Discussed the improved relationship between the board and the national chair

### **Open Discussion**

Jay Thompson discussed Whitetail's requirement to conduct background checks on all paid patrollers. Vail reportedly determined that volunteers do not need to go through background checks. Asked if Pennsylvania law requires background checks for all patrollers. Sharon Friedel mentioned that it's up to resort management whether a background check is required; not believed to be a state law. To review with Tim Kelly if ski patrol is subject to educational background check rules. David Ehrlich discussed the experience with background checks at Roundtop and that there were few/no issues with patrollers. Expects volunteers at their mountain to have a background check as a matter of local policy.

Kurt Adam thanked everyone for attending and discussed his mountain visits this past season. Plans to send an email over the summer to see if there's opportunities to improve the region meetings - or feel free to reach out with suggestions.

Kurt Adam thanked various staff members for the smooth transition.

## **Award Presentations**

Kurt Adam presented the following awards:

### Yellow Merit Star

- Kim Colquhoun (Jack Frost)

### Distinguished Service Award

- Sharon Friedel (Blue Mountain)

### Outstanding Awards

- Nancy Mayberry (Camelback) – Outstanding Administrative Patroller
- Matt Nebzydoski (Elk) – Outstanding Alpine Patroller
- Roland Stefandl – Outstanding Alumni
- Elk Mountain – Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol
- Christine Ludka (Elk) – Non-OEC Instructor
- Valley Forge Nordic – Outstanding Nordic Patrol
- Ed Krynski (Bear Creek) – Outstanding OEC Instructor
- Spring Mountain – Outstanding Mountain Host Unit
- William Bock (Camelback) – Outstanding Paid Patroller
- Abraham Shandler (Valley Forge) – Outstanding YAP

### National Appointment

- Mark Leukus (Roundtop) – Already presented

### Patrollers Cross

- Edward Csongradi (Jack Frost)

### Patriot Star Award

- Aaron Atterman (Jack Frost)
- Frank Abbadess (Jack Frost) - reissue
- Vince Balzoni (Jack Frost) - reissue

### Ed Hirschman Award for Service

- Dennis Zercher (Roundtop)

### Irv Nailor Partners in Industry

- Rick Buckman (Spring Mountain)

### Region Director's Award

- Nancy Mayberry (Camelback)

## **Adjournment**

**Motion** made by Greg Mohr and seconded by Brent Watts to adjourn the meeting at 11:36am; motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Mike Woodruff

**Next Meeting:** EPA Fall Officers Meeting, Sunday, November 10, 2024, location TBD