

# Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes April 10, 2021



**Region Director** Sharon Friedel called to order the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region at 8:00 AM on April 10, 2021 via Zoom (COVID-19 restrictions).

A moment of silence was held for Tom Schanley, Liberty Mountain; Rick Shaak, Camelback; Mike Crump, Pocco North; and Nick Matregano, Spring Mountain.

**Motion** made by Greg Mohr and seconded by Brent Watts to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2020 meeting; motion carried.

## Introductions/Staff Changes:

- Ski Big Bear Patrol Rep – James Kille
- Whitetail Patrol Director – Stephanie Synnott
- Medical Advisor – Bill Jordan added to the team

## SECTION CHIEF REPORTS:

**Northern - Bobby Morgan** Patrols had good year with COVID compliance; ski areas reported banner years and great conditions.

- **Montage:** Great snow; many guests; expanded outside facilities, fire pits, propane heaters; successful recruiting.
- **Ski Big Bear:** Increase of 60% over best year; Jim Kille new patrol director; management runs patrol; adding instructors; 11 candidates.
- **Elk:** Record crowds; appreciated their pre-season COVID planning; no patroller on duty or guest tested positive; recruiting.
- **Hideout:** Good snow; two new magic carpets, one worked; restricted hours; lodge max capacity 40 people; six patrollers; three secondaries; one candidate; looking for more.
- **Upper Delaware Nordic:** Great year for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing; many people outdoors; impossible to find new equipment to buy; looking for primary or secondary patrollers.

## Pocono - Tony Alber

- **Jack Frost:** Opened December 11th, closed March 8th; good snow; no patroller COVID cases; limited access to patrol/family room; triaged outside; visits from Vail managers; focused on risk management; received well by patrol; Vail does not allow YAPs; patrollers must be 21 and older; six candidates to complete OEC in November; OET will begin in December; interest in senior program; no con-ed courses; instructor profiles corrected in December 2020; understand the process better.
- **Big Boulder:** Without tubing, calls were down; added medical supplies to toboggans to eliminate bringing patients to patrol room; new incident forms are easier; implementing Vail policies; added @ 700 pads to man-made objects; operated with 70% patrol; took precautions seriously.
- **Shawnee:** Interrupted OEC course was completed; held OET training; lift evac for 25 people; no OTH; labor shortage; hours changed; one of best seasons in last ten years; COVID approach was simple; patients quickly treated and released; thanked Camelback and Glenn Bisbing for assistance with vaccinations.
- **Camelback:** Glenn Bisbing is new full-time patrol director; followed CDC guidelines; outside food tents; added ventilation/filtration system; seven candidates passed OET; OEC evaluation for three candidates shortly; successful recruiting.

## **Southwest - Jay Thompson**

- **Roundtop, Liberty, and Whitetail** - Record number of guests at Whitetail; OEC programs were challenging; passed ten candidates; Vail does not allow YAPs; large upcoming OEC class; Mountain Safety program cancelled by Vail; training/maintaining mountain hosts may be burden on instructor resources; interest in senior program; reduction in operating hours; patrol down 30%; shortage of lift operators; Vail protocols have been biggest change; confusion over responsibilities specific to paid patrollers; volunteer benefits reduced; lift evac protocol needs clarification.

## **Central - Leigh Linder** All mountains reported best season ever.

- **Spring Mountain:** Completed OEC course, mountain host training, toboggan refreshers; no OET training; record season; patrollers volunteered extra shifts; Nick Matregano passed away.
- **Blue Mountain:** Great snow; increased guest visits; OTH focused on COVID protocols; no OEC class; all candidates passed OET; no banquet.
- **Valley Forge Nordic:** Overall season was “strange.” Natural snow; COVID restrictions; a lot of guests on trails; inclement weather. Rick Shandler helped other mountains; not planning off-season events; Bike Patrol will be in force this summer.
- **Bear Creek:** Open 92 days with dedicated patrollers and hosts; restricted ticket sales; large crowds; issues managing lines at lifts, rentals, and food; passed six OEC candidates; no OET training.
- **Eagle Rock:** Lack of ski school instructors; same number of guests; no OEC or OET classes; no plans for banquet; construction in summer.

**Motion** made by Rick Shandler and seconded by Chuck Fernald to approve the Section Chief Reports; motion carried.

**Secretary Report** — Mike Woodruff was introduced as Secretary-in-Training; Nancy will remain Secretary throughout Sharon Friedel’s term.

**Treasurer’s Report - Ken Reese** Registrations were down less than anticipated; revenue for 2019-2020 season was \$18,906; revenue for 2020-2021 season was \$15,835. Expenses for the 2019-2020 season were in excess of income; expenses were minimal for 2020-2021 season.

**Motion** made by Cathy Long and seconded by Tony Alber to approve the Treasurer’s Report; motion carried.

**National Board Updates - Bob Bernatos, National Board Member** Current Board highlights are DEI Policy, Social Media Policy, and Ski Area Relations Committee working in unison with NSAA to promote importance of ski patrollers. Vail policies are not consistent at resorts. Board in-person meeting postponed from June to the fall. Developing the Bike Program. Planning new IT and learning management systems. Turnover of National office staff appears to be normal for non-profit organizations.

## **PROGRAM/ADVISOR UPDATES:**

**Patroller School - Matt Nebzydoski** No OET events due to travel and training restrictions; held successful webinars for regional staff; online manual and videos available at [patrollerschool.org](http://patrollerschool.org); additional material and videos will be added.

**Alumni - Jim Cahill** Eastern Division had several Zoom meetings hosted by Division Supervisor, Allan Miller, with 20 regional advisors; there are 6,000 Alumni nationwide; reviewing Alumni By-Laws; working on Mission Statement; Alumni can receive Patriot Star award, which was approved as a National award. May have a fall in-person meeting.

**Avalanche - Rich Hartman** No report.

**Awards - David Marks** Awards processed since November meeting: 1 National Appointment; 1 Purple Merit Star; 2 Blue Merit Stars; 9 Patroller Achievement Awards; 3 Patriot Stars; 6 Outstanding awards (2 competing at Division level); Ed Hirschman Award; Region Director Appreciation Award; Certificates of Appreciation.

**Certified - Sharon Friedel for Brant Maley** Event cancelled for second year in a row; week-long event next year at Sugarloaf, ME, immediately following the YAP event.

**Communications - Greg Mohr** ATT/FirstNet is getting popular; every patrol director can administer it for their patrol. Contact Greg with questions.

**Elections - Inese Jardine** Bobby Morgan (Northern Section Chief) and Jay Thompson (Southern Section Chief) ran unopposed. Sharon Friedel is running for her third term in the fall.

**Instructor Development - Brent Watts** Hosting an on-line ID class May 22, 2021; information will be on region website; National online course is pre-requisite; high interest for participation in this course.

**Legal - Sharon Friedel for Tim Kelly** A few cases to be discussed at fall meeting.

**Medical - Adam Ray** Willing to assist patrols in reviewing and understanding protocols.

**MIST - Wolfgang Boernert** Staff changes updated on website; few calendar events due to COVID; good time for advisors to review and update program pages; Wolfgang will check broken links to patrol websites.

**MTR - Lou Marchi** - No report.

**Nordic - Tom Kneiss** Great year for Nordic patrols; many people outdoors due to COVID; difficulty with recruiting; did not have field training but completed National requirements; attended Zoom meetings for classroom training.

**OEC - Sharon Friedel for Dennis Zercher** Dates for OEC refreshers to be posted on EPA calendar; some dates may change due to resort schedules; expect full-day refresher to make up for last year; will know more details at end of month. About 40 patrollers on OEC delinquency roster; patrol directors should address delinquency now.

**PA License Plate Program - Howard Rosenthal** Took it offline to address issues; will put it back online; let patrollers know there are a lot of steps involved; expect delivery to take more than 8 weeks.

**Pro Program - Terry Ownes** No report.

**Risk Management - Ed Kupillas** No report.

**SOEC - Mark Leukus** No report.

**SOET - Ron Helm** No report.

**YAP - Megan Eckhart** Division held scavenger hunt and ski-a-thon through social media; EPA had largest number of participants. Elk, Camelback, Blue, and Spring have YAP programs. EPA YAPs have instagram account; featured the travels and activities of "Al Pine" at different areas. No YAPs at Vail resorts; National has started a conversation with Vail about the YAP program. Division event will be at Smugglers Notch on March 11 - 14, 2022; Megan will vet all EPA registrations. Planning to hold region ski day and OEC/OET day

next year. IORs running courses with any youth participation should make sure at least one YP-trained person is at event.

**Women's - Inese Jardine** No region events held; attended Division Zoom meetings; planning for next year.

**EPA Region** is looking for a new Safety Advisor and new Outdoor Risk Management Advisor.

**Motion** made by Bobby Morgan and seconded by Rick Shandler to approve the Program Reports; motion carried.

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

### **REGION**

**OEC** - 6e rollout completed as scheduled last fall; some patrols completed OEC classes; OEC refresher may be 8-hour day to make up for last year's refresher; plus online portion; not sure about workbook requirement. National is not mailing workbooks; will be available online.

**ICS-100** - Patrol reps should verify all patrollers have completed ICS-100. Candidates must complete ICS-100 along with the OEC class. Any instructor can register the course. Spring's mountain hosts also take ICS-100.

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

**Program Advisors** - Please submit your budget to Sharon (include mileage).

**Courses** - Close courses promptly. At least one YP-trained instructor in attendance for courses/refreshers with any youth participation. Sharon has access to list of YP-trained instructors.

### **DIVISION**

**Events & Meetings** - All events cancelled due to COVID; annual Spring Officers' Meeting is being held virtually; fall meeting may be in-person; success with virtual meetings including the OET platform.

**Training (Non-Local)** - Division training policy now allows region-level training if participants are fully vaccinated at least two weeks prior to event (must show proof to IOR), mountain management approves, and federal, state, and local guidelines are followed. Policy is in effect for the summer and will be re-visited at Division's fall meeting.

**COVID-19** - Information can be found on [NSPEast website](#).

**Elections** - Eastern Division will put up a slate of candidates; names will be announced late summer.

**Finance** - Division is proposing changing fiscal year end to June 30th; each region/patrol will need to align their fiscal year with Division in order to file 990. An additional 990 filing would be required for 4/1/21 to 6/30/21.

**Bike Patrol Advisor** - Division plans to fill this position shortly. At present, EPA does not have any registered bike patrols. If that changes, a region advisor may be added.

### **NATIONAL:**

**NBOD Candidates** – Applications for the National Board are due June 1st.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI Task Force)** - Members are encouraged to submit comments to the DEI Task Force at: [dei-nsp@nspserver.org](mailto:dei-nsp@nspserver.org). The next public meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2021. Details can be found on [National's DEI webpage for patrollers](#).

**Recruitment Kits** - Available at the online store; partially subsidized by NSP; different from safety kits.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION/NEW BUSINESS**

- None

## **AWARDS PRESENTATION**

### **Patriot Star**

Chip Tayler, Whitetail  
Ryan Barone, Whitetail  
Andrew McIntyre, Spring

### **Division Patroller Achievement Award**

Kenneth Hannon, Elk  
Thomas Meagher, Elk  
Thomas Ramirez, Elk  
Tim Rowland, Elk  
Bill Graham, Spring  
Nancy Heller, Whitetail  
Evan Krichevsky, Whitetail  
Douglas Rice, Whitetail  
Robert Vocke Jr., Whitetail

### **Outstanding Administrative Patroller**

Wolfgang Boernert, Pocono Ranchlands

### **Outstanding Young Adult Patroller**

Dean King, Camelback

### **Outstanding OEC Instructor**

Jeff Detwiler, Jack Frost

### **Outstanding Non-OEC Instructor**

Robert Vocke Jr, Whitetail (Avalanche)

### **Outstanding Alumni**

Edmund Conaway, EPA Alumni

### **Outstanding Paid Patroller**

David Olsen, Jack Frost

### **Outstanding Patrol Director**

John Latimer, Whitetail

### **Outstanding Alpine Patroller**

Brian Kozera, Spring

**Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol**

Saw Creek

**Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol**

Spring Mountain

**Ed Hirshman Award for Service**

Rick Shaak Jr., Camelback (posthumously)

**Region Director's Appreciation Award**

Megan Eckhart, Spring

**Certificates of Appreciation**

To all patrol directors for their time and dedication to keeping our patrols functioning and safe during the COVID pandemic.

**Certified Patroller Lifetime Membership**

William Sachs, #226

**Motion** made by Greg Mohr and seconded by Rick Shandler to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 AM; motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry

EPA Fall Line Officers Meeting

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Location: Blue Mountain