

# Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes November 8, 2020



Sharon Friedel, Region Director, called to order the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region at 9:00 AM on November 8, 2020 via Zoom virtual meeting (Covid-19 restrictions). Zoom meeting etiquette and questions were addressed.

A moment of silence was held for Rick Shaak, Camelback; Scott Klenk, Elk Mountain; and Bill Bochicchio, Montage Mountain.

**Motion** made by Brent Watts and seconded by Chuck Fernald to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2020 meeting; motion carried.

## **NBOD Candidates:**

**John Kane** - Past Eastern Division Director; visited every region during term; understands the differences between areas; attends National Board meetings; created Business Processes Committees which are moving to phase 2; made it a mission to remove walls between divisions; would appreciate your support.

**Bob Bernatos** - Past EPA Region Director; attends National Board meetings; committee reviewing mountain hosts, dues, and possibility of voting rights. Elections are open through December 1st. Patrol Directors should get the word out to their patrollers. Voting is important; would appreciate your support.

## **SECTION CHIEF REPORTS:**

### **Northern - Bobby Morgan**

- **Montage:** Limiting night skiing; requiring temperature checks for everyone; added several outside gathering spots with fire pits, seating with a big area near north face; six candidates.
- **Big Bear at Masthope:** Working on Covid compliance, PPE, etc.; dealing with family space that can't be used.
- **Elk:** Concern about getting vent fans in top duty shacks; want new exam room; created Covid assessment card for patrollers to carry; patrollers will also carry extra PPE; lots of scheduling changes; patrol facilities have been compromised.
- **Hideout:** Limiting ticket sales to 100/day; Covid compliance as best as possible; using outdoor skating rink for seating/spacing; can use more patrollers; no definite opening date.
- **Upper Delaware Nordic:** State land; no patrol room.

### **Pocono - Tony Alber**

- **Saw Creek:** Some improvements on the hill; new maintenance facility; management runs the hill; patrol has no say in training, scheduling, etc; management has not done anything yet; lift evac refresher will be at Ranchlands.
- **Big Boulder:** No report.
- **Camelback:** Lift evac re-scheduled for 11/15/20; following new lift evac manual and "Ski Well; Be Well" guidelines; new people interested in joining; not sure who will pass KSL's interview process; waiting for PA to

issue regulations for operations of ski mountains; waiting for management to address Covid concerns in old patrol facilities.

- **Shawnee:** No report.
- **Ranchlands:** No report.
- **Jack Frost:** Opening day planned for Dec 11th, if restrictions don't change; COVID plans for people interaction, training, and patient care; not sure about recruitment - probably wait until later in season; appreciate the Region's help in getting OET instructors' records updated before opening day.

#### Central - Leigh Linder

- **Spring Mountain:** Covid committee following PA-DOH protocols; limiting table space in lodge; doing as much as possible online; running OEC using online format and Zoom meetings; ran OFC class; screening people before entering patrol room; would like to know how patrols plan to comp visiting patrollers. ([Comp policies on EPA Website.](#))
- **Blue Mountain:** Busy spring season; preparing for Covid protocols; new snowmaking system on Burma Road; candidate class not doing OEC this year; at the end of season they will have OET and mountain P&P completed; selling tickets in 8 and 4 hour increments; must purchase in advance; limited indoor activity; use cars to boot up, eat, warm up.
- **Valley Forge Nordic:** Waiting for snow.
- **Bear Creek:** OEC class started October 7th and running on Zoom; skills portion scheduled for February; seven candidates; all tickets will be sold online in advance; no seating in cafeteria; may have food trucks on busier days; no lockers; triage area outside; seriously injured/ill patients will go to patrol room and then ambulance; about 15% not returning due to Covid.
- **Eagle Rock:** Privately-owned resort; uncertain if opening; lifts passed inspection; did not replace beginner lift; have new snow equipment; OTH and CPR not yet scheduled.

#### Southwest - Jay Thompson

- **Roundtop, Liberty, and Whitetail** - Three resorts owned by Vail; speculation on operations; has been mostly volunteer organization, but Vail is changing that; two-tiered system with different duties for volunteers and paid patrollers; have been a family-oriented patrol; Vail has taken away all benefits for volunteers; concern about where patrollers who travel long distance will stay; concern that volunteers will be phased out; Vail has not provided clarity on lift evac; OEC hands-on class is running well; waiting for Vail's protocols about providing first aid; about 200 mountain safety personnel will have to transfer to NSP mountain host; not sure how to get everyone trained in time; Vail may use mountain hosts who have not completed course; appreciate NSP's SPOT insurance program.

**Treasurer's Report - Ken Reese** Dues for Mountain Hosts will be refunded to: Whitetail, Bear Creek, and Spring Mountain; received Alumni dues \$1,210; NSP Dues \$286; program expenses greatly reduced this year; checking account balance is \$10,455; investment account balance is \$48,225.

**Motion** made by Bobby Morgan and seconded by Jay Thompson to approve the Treasurer's Report; motion carried.

#### PROGRAM/ADVISOR UPDATES:

**Alumni - Jim Cahill** Not sure about comp tickets for Alumni members; working on Alumni being included in Patriot Star awards.

**Avalanche - Rich Hartman** Not running a course this year; potential students can complete all pre-course work to be ready for next year.

**Awards - David Marks** Patriot Star award being considered as a National award. National also considering an award for patrollers on the front line of Covid. Awards presented at the end of meeting.

**Elections – Sharon Friedel for Inese Jardine**

- Northern Section Chief Bobby Morgan is finishing second term.
- Southern Section Chief Jay Thompson is finishing first term.
- Region Director elections next fall.

**Instructor Development – Brent Watts** ID class on December 5th; may link up with Jim Miller and Eastern Division Zoom classes.

**Legal – Tim Kelly** Covid guidelines on Eastern Division website; will review membership status for Vail Mountain Hosts without training; the region's assistant legal advisor is going alumni; looking for replacement assistant legal advisor.

**MIST – Wolfgang Boernert** Updated visiting patroller policies on website; program advisors need to update webpages; trying to get EMS Con-Ed credit with online refresher but does not look promising; patrollers can apply for "Con-Ed by Endorsement." Patrols can reach out to local hospitals for assistance with credits.

**Nordic – Tom Kneiss** Training via Zoom; attended Eastern Division AMN program via Zoom; expecting to see more people on trails this season.

**OEC – Dennis Zercher** Thanks to patrol IORs for getting 1,200 people through OEC Refresher A and collecting certificates; personal computer was hacked and false information distributed; OEC 6e rollout - 207 names on roster; make sure everyone has completed it; would like refreshers completed by Thanksgiving; do not let patrollers and active alumni end up on the OEC delinquent list; will schedule OEC refreshers for next year.

**PA License Plate Program – Howard Rosenthal** License plate sales started on 08/16/2011. To date, 341 license plates sold; 5 sold in 2020; motorcycle license plates are available; looking for an assistant to train.

**Patroller School – Matt Nebzydoski** Patroller Schools have been cancelled; OET steering committee meeting weekly; working on series of webinars for Division staff and TEs; designed around senior ski and toboggan standards; updating scoring system; webinar invitations are for RAs and Division OET staff and are on November 18th, December 1st, and third webinar TBD; webinars and online courses will be used to keep TEs certified; considering frequent micro-training events; OET manual developed for the Eastern Division.

**Pro Program – Terry Ownes** Big Boulder experienced conversion; people have inquired about joining the Pro Division; getting in touch with Marc Abend, who is a pro patroller and NBOD member; will get back to people about benefits of being a pro patroller.

**SOEC - Mark Leukus** All senior OEC activities postponed this year due to Covid; waiting to hear about recertifications.

**SOET - Sharon Friedel for Ron Helm** Currently, Senior OET exams will not be scheduled due to Covid.

**YAP – Megan Eckhart** Re-housed some YAPs and their parents; Division YAP event will probably not be held due to Covid; considering virtual events to keep YAPs involved; let Megan know if your mountain has YAPs and the name of your patrol's YAP advisor; Vail resorts does not allow YAPs.

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

### **REGION:**

**COVID-19** – A few calls were held for the Patrol Directors to discuss their plans for Covid-19 preparedness for the season. Access information on the [Division website](#).

**OEC** – Refreshers should be wrapping up. PD's please check in with your patrollers to make sure everyone has completed it so no one ends up on the delinquent roster.

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

**PROGRAM ADVISORS** – Send website updates to Wolfgang – advertise your program! Since we do not have a lot of program activity this season, this is a good time to get info updated on the web for your program page.

**PATROL ROSTERS** – Get them finalized now.

**EMAIL UPDATES** – Remind patrollers to update any email changes with both National and EPA Region. Some patrollers have blocked EPA email blasts. They have to unblock to receive communications.

### **DIVISION:**

**EVENTS/MEETINGS** – Several events have been cancelled for the fall. More to follow as we go through the season. Please check [nspeast.org](http://nspeast.org) for updates.

**ELECTIONS** – Eastern Division Slate of candidates for NBOD (Wendy Aarnio, John Kane, and Bob Bernatos). Need help getting the word out this year. Vote for five candidates. Donna Gardino, Deb Endly and Byrd White are also strong NBOD candidates.

### **NATIONAL:**

**NATIONAL OFFICE** – Will shut down with any Covid positive cases. Best way to reach them is by email, as several of them are working from home when this occurs.

**COVID-19** – Visit [nsp.org](http://nsp.org) home page to see all Covid-19 updates.

**DIRECT LINE** – Please read the info!

**NSAA/NSP AERIAL EVACUATION RESOURCE GUIDE** – Now available from NSP.

**YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM** – Required for all leadership positions (Section Chief and above). Recommended for all Patrol Reps, especially if you have under age 18 on patrol. Recommended for instructors if teaching courses where YAPs are participating. Information on youth protection training and where to send completion certificates can be found on the [Eastern Division website](#).

**RFA – MOUNTAIN HOST VOTING PRIVILEGES** About 75% of patrols are voting in favor; more to come from the National level.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- NSP courses that have been registered but not run must be cancelled or they remain on the active list.

## **Awards Presentation - Sharon Friedel**

### **Patriot Star Award**

Joshua Whitby, Shawnee  
John Kolano, Shawnee  
William Radican, Shawnee  
Eric Erickson, Shawnee  
Pete Akersten, Shawnee  
Mehmet Barzev, Shawnee  
Tim Sessions, Bear Creek  
Russ Scaramastra, Bear Creek  
Pat Sullivan, Bear Creek  
Edmund Kolipinski, Bear Creek  
Andrew Skelton, Bear Creek

### **50 Year NSP Service Award**

Scott Spohn, Camelback  
Michael Quinn, Shawnee

### **Purple Merit Star**

Sharon Drummond, Blue Mountain

### **Blue Merit Star**

Susie Molnar, Blue Mountain  
Jim Feeney, Blue Mountain

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

Michelle Wasterman  
Connor Frey  
Don Haddon  
Sara Seidel

### **National Appointment**

Tom Fitts, Ski Liberty

### **Yellow Merit Star**

Harry Goldman, Ski Liberty  
David Weiss, Ski Liberty

### **Eastern Division Donna McGraw Patroller for Patrollers Award**

Nancy Mayberry, Camelback

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

Gary Johnson, Spring Mountain

**Eastern Division Outstanding Instructor Award**

Michael Jarriel, Ski Liberty

**Recognition Award as the Nordic/Backcountry National Program Director from 2014-2020**

Rick Shandler

**Distinguished Service Award**

Rick Shandler

**Hall of Fame 2019**

Bob Scarlett

**Motion** made by Tony Alber and seconded by Bobby Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM; motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry

**EPA Spring Line Officers Meeting**

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

**Location: TBA**