

# Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes April 23, 2022



**Region Director** Sharon Friedel called to order the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region at 9:35 AM on April 23, 2022 at Blue Mountain Resort.

A moment of silence was held for:

- Eddie Eggenberger – Paper Birch/Tanglewood
- John Fratto – Bear Creek

**Motion** made by Bobby Morgan and seconded by Rich Messina to approve the Minutes of the November 14, 2021 meeting; motion carried.

## INTRODUCTIONS/STAFF CHANGES:

- Pocono Section Chief — Bill Andrews
- Jenn Rinker — Safety Advisor
- Kathleen Susor — Roundtop Vail Ski Patrol Leader
- Bob Bernatos — NBOD
- Bob Scarlett — Former NBOD, Former National Legal Adviser, and current NBOD Candidate

## SECTION CHIEF REPORTS:

### Southwest - Jay Thompson

- **Roundtop, Liberty, and Whitetail** - All Vail resorts; challenging year; Petzl lift evac training should be done more than once a year; AHA changed CPR instructor requirements; may lose CPR instructors over new rules; staffing is down; recruiting; large OEC refreshers; patrollers are registering as secondary patrollers at other mountains; Vail communicates through different liaisons; communications are not consistent.

### Central - Leigh Linder

- **Spring Mountain:** New ice skating rink and snow guns; 5 passed OET; success with OEC class.
- **Blue Mountain:** Open 102 days; accidents were up. The new trail that was called “Coming Soon” now has snowmaking and opened officially this year. Its new name is “Free Fall.” Under KSL Management; plans for new lift. 8 passed OEC; 2 passed SOEC; 4 passed SOET; 3 full seniors; Jenn Rinker is Patroller of the Year. About 10 new candidates/year. Held region YAP event and a young patroller school.
- **Valley Forge Nordic:** Overall low snow season. Renewed National Park Service JSOU.
- **Bear Creek:** Open 72 days; new RFID system; increase in season passholders; Petzl lift evac training should be done more than once a year; 7 passed OET; 6 passed OEC; 3 passed SOEC; 2 passed SOET; successful EMS bridge program run by Eric Snyder; John Fratto passed away.
- **Eagle Rock:** Privately owned; investing in infrastructure; 9 incidents; having trouble recruiting.

### Pocono - Bill Andrews

- **Jack Frost:** Owned by Vail; positive feedback; 3 new candidates; 3 new lifts; follow OSHA standards for lift evac; changed opening to 9AM due to staffing issues; mostly paid patrollers.
- **Big Boulder:** 8 candidates; one became full patroller; 2 new lifts; night time lift evac training; adding a terrain park; changed opening to noon on weekends and 3pm midweek due to staffing issues; mostly paid; better clientele.
- **Shawnee:** 66 patrollers; 10 paid.

- **Camelback:** Replacing lift; using new RFID; annual open house for recruiting; 5 candidates; open Patrol Director position; volunteer board terming out; all board positions running unopposed. Patrollers and rangers helped with lift line organization due to staffing issues.
- **Saw Creek:** No report.
- **Ranchlands:** Lift did not run this year; decision being made to remove or repair lift; opened for sledding.

#### **Northern - Bobby Morgan**

- **Montage:** Good season; similar attendance to prior season; Axxess pass system worked but with some issues; added 3 patrollers; hosted OET trainer seminars; 2 successful lift evacuations; patrol provided service to the mountain on all weekend days and 7 nights/week until 9PM.
- **Ski Big Bear:** 10 new patrollers; cleaned patrol room.
- **Elk:** Held modified Patroller School; senior OET test in March; added 4 candidates; 2 YAPs; 2 passed OEC; 8 passed OET; Mike Ksenich passed Certified exam.
- **Hideout:** 2 transformers blew and wiped out snow guns; affected snowmaking; issue with chairlift caused loss of a weekend; closed more days than open; 1 candidate looking for OEC course; Mountain Manager position open; skating rink turning into rental shop with one end for food service.
- **Upper Delaware Nordic:** 0 accidents; open 365 days; four patrollers.

**Motion** made by Gregg Mohr and seconded by Cathy Long to approve the Section Chief Reports; motion carried.

#### **Vail Q&A Session - Bob Scarlett, Moderator; Bob Duerr, Ski Liberty Vail Ski Patrol Leader; Kathleen Susor, Rountop Vail Ski Patrol Leader; Bob Bernatos, NSP National Board Member.**

Presentation on Vail Resorts and NSP relationship.

Vail runs employee-based ski patrol with volunteer patrollers assisting the paid staff.

Vail owns 5 resorts in EPA.

Positive and negative changes.

Understanding the problems.

Legal issues.

Misconceptions.

Q&A Session.

#### **Treasurer's Report - Sharon Friedel for Ken Reese**

- New Division Treasurer; Dues income \$19,602
- Other Income = Total \$21,659
- Expenses = \$19,211
- Current Net Profit - \$2,448; expenses still coming in
- Wells Fargo Balance (operating account): \$13,212
- Investments Balance: \$81,197
- 990's due July 15th:
  - Subject line of email must include the following: 990; mountain name; year end date.
  - Send an XL file only - not a PDF or any other type of format.
  - Dates must be correct.
  - Beginning balance must be the same as the ending balance on the previous 990.

**Secretary Report** — No report.

**Motion** made by Cathy Long and seconded by Rich Messina to approve the Treasurer's and Secretary's Reports; motion carried.

## **PROGRAM/ADVISOR UPDATES:**

**Alumni - Jim Cahill** Alumni not getting recognized when they reach 50 Years of Service; there are 421 EPA alumni; Division Alumni Advisor is asking Division YAP Advisor if alumni can help at YAP seminar; Alumni Advisors meet regularly via Zoom; list of 23 activities alumni can do for NSP; planning face-to-face meeting in March.

**Avalanche - Rich Hartman** Stepping down; transitioned to Bob Vocke.

**Awards - David Marks** There were no new awards submitted since November. Awards processed this year were: 1 Yellow Merit Star; 5 Blue Merit Stars; 1 Patroller's Cross; 2 Patriot Stars; 11 Outstanding Awards; 2 Certificates of Appreciation; 3 EPA regional awards. Working with Sue-Ellen Helmacy on Critical Care Award which would be for a life changing incident where a patient's life wasn't in danger. Plan to address a new way handle the award process at Division awards meeting.

**Certified - Sharon Friedel for Brant Maley** Certified exam held at Sugarloaf, ME. Three new certified patrollers; Mike Ksenich, Elk, new Certified patroller. Plans for Boot Camp, Advanced Patroller School, and pre-tests; next exam will be at Killington on March 16-19, 2023.

**Communications - Greg Mohr** FirstNet is still available. See Greg about questions on licenses and how to program personal radios.

**Elections - Sharon Friedel for Inese Jardine** Looking for an Elections Advisor to replace Inese.

*Elected:*

Region Director: Sharon Friedel (Final Term ends April 1, 2024)

Region Delegate-at-Large: Mark Miller

Section Chiefs: Leigh Linder (2nd term), Bill Andrews (1st term).

Next year, Bobby Morgan is terming out; Jay Thompson is up for 3rd term.

National Elections: 5 open spots; Bob Scarlett plans to run for 2nd term. EPA Region supports Bob.

**Instructor Development - Brent Watts** Online Zoom course May 7th. Pre-requisite: National online e-course.

**Legal - Tim Kelly** Nothing new.

**Medical - Sharon Friedel for Adam Ray** Region Medical Advisors meet regularly with Division, National, and Past National Medical advisors. Topics discussed this past season include COVID protocols; COVID vaccinations; on-hill CPR policy; SMR; Narcan; Epinephrine; patient follow-up programs; debriefing after stressful incidents; Division COOPED-UP task force recommendations.

**MIST - Wolfgang Boernert** Email server being updated; send program updates for posting on website.

**MTR - Lou Marchi** Successful Moodle Course completed by 30 patrollers; saved time for hands on with students. Next course will be November 12 - 13, 2022.

**Nordic - Sharon Friedel for Tom Kneiss** Nordic patrols struggle to keep and recruit members; encourages attendance at AMN events; welcomes secondary patrollers.

**OEC - Dennis Zercher** Refresher schedule is on the website but not final. Number of qualified instructors is down for refreshers. Asking instructors to cover two refreshers each season.

**ORM - Sharon Friedel for Phil Barker** This is a new program; still being worked on.

**PA License Plate Program - Sharon Friedel for Howard Rosenthal** Looking for replacement. PennDot will not replace plates without charge, including delaminated plates. Remove posting of 8-week turn around time from region website.

**Pro Program - Sharon Friedel for Terry Ownes** Jack Frost staff no longer department employees but mountain employees; did other jobs not related to ski patrol. Vail places a higher value on staff at \$21/hour and overtime over 40 hours; equipment stipend; 95% of staff is paid; three years ago, most were volunteers.

**Safety - Jennifer Rinker** Region has its own tent; successful safety event at Blue Mountain on President's weekend; patrol reps should have received package from Division Safety Team; putting list together of patrol-level safety advisors.

**Safety - National Program Director Rick Shandler** Both physical and mental patroller safety is imperative. Safety Program is public facing; the Eastern Division started a movement to recognize the needs of patrollers and stress incident management. Every patrol should have a safety representative.

**SOEC - Mark Leukus turning over to Chris Whitpan** Cancelled an event due to ice storm; tested 16 people, 12 passed; program enrollment has been going down; promote involvement.

**SOET - Ron Helm** Elk cancelled Patroller School; held small events around the region including TE recerts. Plans for next year will include more mini events; allows TEs to work at different areas. Considering clinics on weekdays with smaller groups. May hold four mini Patroller Schools: Whitetail, Elk, Blue, Montage.

**YAP - Jenn Rinker for Megan Eckhart** Division seminar cancelled; Blue Mountain hosted region event with 14 YAPs and 12 instructors/advisors; plan to hold another region event next year; Division seminar will be at Smuggs in March 2023. Contact Megan if you have YAPs or know of a YAP who needs help finding a patrol.

**Women's - Leigh Linder** Thanked predecessors for the program's wonderful success. Women want to come out to learn and have fun together. Leigh can bring the instructor team to your mountain.

**Motion** made by Jay Thompson and seconded by Tony Alber to approve the Program Reports; motion carried.

## UPDATES

**NBOD - Bob Bernatos** Rick Boyce is new National Chair; there are new board members; committees have been filled. Continue to discuss relevancy. Working on new LMS system, new MMS, and IMIS on the cloud. The switch from old to new will occur when staff is comfortable with the new system. Powderfall was a great event. DEI is moving forward.

## OPEN DISCUSSION/NEW BUSINESS:

None

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

### Yellow Merit Star

*Matt Nebzdoski* – For support of the Certified Program

### Blue Merit Star

*Sydney Hamburger, Julie Hall, Joseph Hall, Ed Eccker, Catherine Eccker* – for participating in an incident where the patient required CPR and the use of an AED but subsequently did not survive.

### Patrollers Cross

*Steve Papanastasiou*

**Patriot Star Awards**

*Vincent Bulzoni*  
*Frank Abadessa*

**Certificates of Appreciation**

*Tony Alber* – for tenure as a section chief  
*David Burian* – For saving a life as an alumnus

**Outstanding Awards**

*Bob Bernatos* – Alpine Patroller  
*Montage Ski Patrol* – Large Alpine Patrol  
*Rich Hartman* - Non-OEC Instructor  
*Tom Kneiss* – Nordic Patroller  
*Evan Krichevsky* – OEC Instructor  
*Bear Creek* – Mountain Host Unit  
*Phil Barker* – Paid Patrol Director  
*Kristina Hoxha* – Paid Patroller  
*Alison Hudak* – Volunteer Mountain Host  
*Jim Widenor III* – Volunteer Patrol Director  
*Mason Rinker* - Young Adult Patroller

**Irv Nailor Partners in Industry**

*Dynamark Security Systems* – for hosting OEC classes

**Ed Hirshman Award for Service**

*Roeb Gravel*

**Regional Director's Award**

*Robert Morgan*

**EPA Fall Line Officers Meeting**

Sunday, November 13, 2022  
Blue Mountain Resort

**Motion** made by Rick Shandler and seconded by Bobby Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 PM; motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry