

Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes November 12, 2017



I. Section Chiefs and Region Staff Meetings from 8:33 AM to 9:32 AM

II. Call to Order

Bob Bernatos, Region Director, called the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:52 AM on November 12, 2017 at Blue Mountain Ski Area. Thank you to Blue Mountain for hosting this meeting.

III. Moment of Silence

There was a moment of silence to remember all patrollers and family members who are no longer with us. Chuck Uliana, Chuck Lippincott, Mark Ecker, George Helwig, John Andrews, Joe Sullivan, Paul Horvath, and Lauren Hartman.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Dina Manoway and seconded by Bobby Morgan to approve the Minutes of the April 23, 2017 meeting; motion approved.

V. Introductions

Richard Long, Bill Sachs, and Mark Clem

Mark Clem spoke about "Meet the Members of National Ski Patrol," an online video presentation he created. Mark went to the Certified Boot Camp at John Kane's in Maine this summer, and he did some interviews. This year's theme is "The Mountain you Never Heard Of." It will start Thanksgiving week in Lost Valley. There will also be a video tour of the National Ski Patrol office. Send Mark ideas, keep watching the show, and Mark thanks everyone for their support.

Bob Bernatos stated that if you ever have a chance to pay a visit to the National Ski Patrol office, you should. Bob spoke about all the hard work the staff has been doing to improve.

VI. Section Chief Reports

A. Northern - Bobby Morgan

- Please vote.
- Mast Hope has moved some magic carpets; continues to grow; running out of parking area; expanded tubing park; improving snowmaking; updated patrol's AEDs.

- Montage has 5 new candidates; past 6 years Montage has had 5 new General Managers; updated lift evac gear; developed a method to load patients on the chairlift to transport up to the base area for ski patrol.
- The Hideout is rebuilding their patrol; retention is an issue; running classes, looking for new people; their patrol radio is monitored by numerous agencies who also respond; lift evac is next weekend; local fire department will participate in lift evac.
- Upper Delaware Nordic also has an issue with retention; patrol state land; do not have a boss; if you want to register secondary, you would be welcome.
- Elk Mountain has 6 candidates and a transfer; OEC hybrid online is working well; added more snowmaking; Christmas tree planting program.
- OEC refreshers were excellent. HPCPR station was a highlight. Thanks to Dennis and his group.
- Bob Bernatos spoke about HPCPR training and addressing it at the National level.

B. Pocono - Tony Alber

- Jack Frost said it was the best OEC refresher yet; would like to get rid of the workbook; 6 new candidates; lost 3 patrollers including the death of Joe Sullivan at Big Boulder; started a patroller newsletter.
- Shawnee has 3 new instructors; moved their terrain park; automated some snowmaking; total of 10 candidates
- Saw Creek has a new maintenance person.
- Ranchlands needs a new toboggan which has been ordered.
- Big Boulder added a new tubing run; 2 candidates; and Big Boulder opened yesterday for the weekends.
- Camelback has a new General Manager; lost three patrollers; 11 new candidates, most of which started with S&T first which has worked out well; December 16th Recruiting Day; Open House; Shadow Days; layout of top of mountain has changed; the restaurant Cameltop is also being renovated; parking at the top; close at 9:00 PM for every night.
- Would like to get the stats of the YAP program and the retention rate of patrollers. Meghan stated that the program called "YAP" has only been around for 4 years. Discussion ensued about the possibility of finding out which patrollers started as YAPs. Funding of the YAP program was also discussed.

- Discussion ensued about Alumni, the credentials and restrictions for what Alumni can and can not do.
- Best OEC Refresher ever.
- Bob Bernatos spoke about the YAP expenses and the Mid-Winter meeting. The Division staff members from the Mid-Winter meeting participate in the YAP activities throughout the weekend. The Board meetings are held in the evenings. The cost of Board member attendance comes from the Eastern Division Treasury as a budgeted line item. Bob's disagreement is that we are basically subsidizing the YAP program under the guise of a meeting that totals less than six hours over the weekend. But Bob said if those Board members didn't stay and help, the YAP program would end. Also, Bob pointed out that the meeting is sometimes scheduled less than 30 days before the Division Spring Meeting. By-Law changes discussed at the Mid-Winter Meeting did not have enough time to be addressed.
- Bob Bernatos stated that patrollers should continue to bring their concerns to him and Sharon Friedel so they can bring those issues to meetings.
- Bob discussed the National Ski Patrol issue about cards being sent directly to patrollers instead of going through the Patrol Directors. Bob stated that the National office has not yet made any plans to change that procedure. Bob also discussed how Wolfgang created OEC cards for the Region using plastic card stock. The Region would like Wolfgang to do something similar with the membership cards. Bob is checking into an issue of a signature if the Region does recreate the membership cards on plastic card stock. Rick Shandler indicated that the National Board is reconsidering the issuing of membership cards and that they may be mailed to the Patrol Directors instead of the patrollers. Bob will follow up on this.
- Bob discussed the requirements for Alumni working in the aid room but not providing services on the hill. Alumni can not wear official NSP clothing. Discussion ensued about Alumni and individual area protocols.

C. Southwest - Robert Wohlschlegel

- Liberty and Roundtop hosted OEC refreshers; Whitetail is planning on opening December 1st; candidate class totaled 20 for the three mountains; Roundtop implemented an OEC hybrid which is going well. CPR class "on tour" brings CPR refreshers to areas where patrollers live instead of one big class at the mountain; new snowmaking; new risk management system; advanced lift evac training was conducted at the end of July.

- Mitch Wise asked about the cost of the CPR course. Mark Clem said that the patrollers hosted small CPR classes in their homes. Mark said that AHA only charges \$10/person for the card not like ARC who charges \$27/person for the card. Discussion ensued about the OEC online training and testing in addition to the hands-on practical. Dina Manoway asked if the Region or Division would negotiate with ARC on behalf of Ski Patrol to see if the cost could be reduced for Patrollers who want to take the CPR Instructor Course to become CPR Instructors. Discussion ensued.

D. Central - Rick Shandler for Inese Jardine

- Brent Watts is the new Patrol Director at Spring Mountain and is doing a nice job; OEC class with 7 candidates; running SOEC program with 100% success rate on evaluation; developing advanced lift evac; electronic incident reporting.
- Bear Creek is running an OEC to EMT bridge program. Have 7 OEC candidates.
- Valley Forge is recruiting more people; will be on the trail December 3rd.
- Get your patrollers to vote.
- Complaints about retention; would like to know that ideas or suggestions to change the retention issue are being formulated.

VII. Awards - Steve Buzzard

Our Region had four candidates win Outstanding Awards at the Division level. One also won at the National level.

Eastern Division Outstanding Patrol Representative

Steve Sobolewski (Liberty)

Eastern Division Outstanding OEC Instructor

Fred Tim (Camelback)

Eastern Division Large Alpine Patrol

Roundtop

Roundtop was also the National Runner-Up (Second Place)

Eastern Division AND National Outstanding Paid Patroller

Dave Smith (Roundtop)

VIII. Program Updates:

OEC Refreshers - Dennis Zercher

Working on next year's refresher schedule. Had to change four dates due to resorts booking more events on Saturdays. This may be a growing problem. We may consider renting spaces in the future. This year's refreshers with four stations proved to be an excellent change to the refresher format. Numerous positive comments about the instructors and the refreshers. Everything that was supposed to be covered was covered.

Bob Bernatos talked about the positive effect of the OEC equipment and supplies that have been purchased by the Region to improve the refresher experience. Bob reaffirmed the numerous positive comments he has received. Bob thanked everyone who helped make this program better.

SOET - Bob Bernatos for Ron Helm

Dates are on the calendar for the SOET evaluations.

SOEC - Bob Bernatos for Mark Leukus

Dates are on the calendar for for the SOEC program.

YAP - Meghan Eckhart

Meghan's main concern has been about communications. She is not aware of each mountain's YAPs, their interest, etc. The Region YAP event has been cancelled two years in a row. There will be no Region event unless Patrol Directors have YAPs who are interested. She does not know how to solve the problem about YAP communications. Meghan stated that she used to have 30 YAPs at Division. Three years ago, she had one YAP. Meghan would like Patrol Directors to encourage their YAPs about participating in the YAP program. This year's Division YAP event is March 16-19th at Holiday Valley in New York.

Bob stated that the background checks have been effecting the YAP program. If you have a YAP program, you must have a background check for those in a supervisory position. There are State regulations that govern how a YAP program can be run. Background checks are good for five years. Discussion ensued about renewing background checks.

Safety - Jim Policelli

Bob Bernatos would like Jim Policelli to work with Ed Kupillas on risk and safety. Jim stated the program of Region Safety Advisor is still available. There are very few ski clubs left. The core of Ski Clubs' activities have drifted, and the exposure for safety talks has been almost non-existent.

Bill Sachs asked Jim how long he had been the Advisor to the Safety program. Jim stated it has been since 1979. Bill noted that Jim is the longest Region Advisor. Everyone applauded Jim's record.

MTR - Rich Hartman

MTR program being held at Roundtop. Only 9 people have signed up. Rich stated that patrollers will learn how to properly do a search among other things. People are encouraged to re-take this course if they have not taken it in a while because the course continues to improve.

Avalanche - Rich Hartman

A few people have signed up. The course may be cancelled.

Communications - Greg Mohr

Last year NSP filed a concern about the FCC's requirements for digital and analog. Radios will be required to handle both digital and analog. There is an article in the Winter Edition of the NSP magazine about the licensing. Let Greg know if you want help with licensing changes. Greg was asked to consider the position for Communications Advisor for National.

Meeting Break from 11:39AM to 11:50AM

Elections - Bob Bernatos for Matt DiLoreto

Sharon Friedel is the new Region Director. Bob Bernatos discussed some of the online voting communication issues and incorrect National email addresses. 13.6% of people voted. Bob is going to discuss with National the possibility of future voting for the Region through the National voting program. This will be Bob's last meeting. Anything you send Bob, please copy Sharon on so she is kept aware of events.

Instructor Development - Brent Watts

ID ran two courses in the Spring. May hold another course in December at Camelback. If not, a class will be set up next spring.

EMS - Bob Bernatos for Dave Hayes

Protocols for Narcan are at Jack Frost, Big Boulder, and Blue Mountain. The Region is establishing a Medical Advisor Committee to represent the Region at the Division level. The Medical Advisor Committee will also be able to help with various medical protocols and can sign-off for those mountains who do not have a Medical Advisor. If you know of anyone who should be considered for this Committee, please forward the name to Bob Bernatos.

Legal - Bob Bernatos for Tim Kelly

Nothing to report.

Women's Program - Bob Bernatos for Inese Jardine

It is being held at Montage on February 24th. Sharon Friedel talked about the many accomplishments she has witnessed over the years by the participants of this program. All levels are accepted. The biggest problem is that the program is so successful. They might try smaller programs at individual mountains.

License Plates - Howard Rosenthal

The price went up nominally. There was an application change that has caused some timing issues. It is being resolved.

IX. Website - Bob Bernatos

Verify your contact information. All changes and updates should be submitted to Wolfgang as soon as possible so the website can be kept current. Wolfgang stated that PA has approved OEC courses as PA-EMS credits.

X. Finances - Jack Bogdon

Jack has made the transition back to the Treasurer of the Region. Checks will be sent electronically. Make sure your name/address is on your voucher so he can get you in the system. The 990s are not being submitted to the Region on a timely basis. They are now due to Jack by April 30th each year. The form is simple, and it should be easy to complete in the time frame. The current expense voucher is on the EPA website.

XI. National, Division and Region News

- National IT issues continue. Patroller history and awards are still a problem.
- They will be revisiting the NSP card issue of emailing cards to patrollers.
- Continuous years of service v. years of service has been an issue. If someone took a year off, their profile started all over with year one. It is being addressed.
- New NSP Executive Director Meegan Moszynski has been enthusiastic and dynamic.
- A contract for the OEC 6th Edition has been signed with a publisher for electronic and paperback versions. Updates will automatically be added to the electronic version. Politics may affect the release of the OEC 6th. For the OEC 6th edition, Bob would like comments on the online OEC course for the 5th edition for input in possibly developing an online course for the 6th edition.
- Currently working on OET videos on the National level.
- IT TE Instructor Lists are still not correct. Flo is currently working on the OEC portion of it. The OEC list should be rectified shortly. The OET list requires a lot of corrections.
- OET ITs are appointed by the Division Supervisor. ITs of any program can oversee the quality control of all programs. An IT does not have to be from the same program.
- Trying to get National OEC demoed for park service personnel. The Nordic backcountry program is growing.

- Bike Patrol is an official NSP program but not sure where it fits because protocols have not been developed.
- Lift evac manual should be revised. Patrols are encouraged to update and use modern equipment.
- The Division has been running a negative budget for the past two years. The decision was made to draw from the cash reserves instead of a dues increase at this time. At some point, Division will either need to reduce spending or increase dues to balance the budget.
- 50-year lifetime memberships are now automatic. Those who qualify should receive a package in the mail from National. Paid lifetime patrollers can pay their Division and Region dues online at National. There are not Division or Region dues after you attain 50 years of service.
- Discussion ensued about EMT and paramedics who become patrollers and are not OEC certified.
- Patroller 101 Course was discussed. Jack Frost and Big Boulder run the course. The course is specific to each mountain. Bob stated that Patroller 101 is an elective course and must meet certain criteria. Bill Sachs gave history on Patroller 101.
- Bob was asked to make an announcement requesting feedback for benefits available to patrollers at each mountain. This is voluntary.

XII. Open Discussion

Dina Manoway thanked Bob Bernatos for his years of service as Region Director. There was a standing ovation to thank Bob Bernatos.

XIII. Adjournment

The Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2018; location to be announced. Thanks to Blue Mountain for hosting today's meeting. Thank you to everyone for attending. Motion made by Rick Shandler and seconded by Bob Wohlschlegel to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry