

Eastern Pennsylvania Region

Stated Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2015



I. Section Chiefs and Region Staff Meetings from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

II. Call to Order

Bob Bernatos, Region Director, called the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:47 AM on November 15, 2015 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.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Sue Ballek and seconded by Steve Sobolewski to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2014 meeting; motion approved. A motion was made by Howard Rosenthal and seconded by Paul Spear to approve the Minutes of the April 18, 2015 meeting; motion approved.

V. Section Chief Reports

A. Northern - Paul Spear

- Montage has candidates; provided first aid to off-season races; SOET and SOEC tests will be held there
- Big Bear provided training to local firemen on chairlift evacuation
- Hideout annual lift evacuation training coming up
- Upper Delaware Nordic status quo
- Elk has upcoming Patroller School; provided first aid to off-season races
- Mimi Cusick is new OEC coordinator for Northern Section

B. Pocono - Sue Ballek

- Discussed child abuse background checks and how each ski area was handling them
- Would like to see a list of all the On-the-Hill dates and all CPR refreshers on the Region's website
- Alpine is getting a new patrol room

- Training for OEC and S&T offered to all patrols at Jack Frost and Camelback
- Bob Bernatos announced that Keith Winot has moved to North Carolina.

C. Southwest - Dick Bense

- Discussed changes in OEC protocols
- Whitetail is celebrating 25 years in March; held low angle class this year; will be hosting SOEC clinic and SOET challenge
- All three mountains have candidates
- Liberty undergoing an expansion program

D. Central - Inese Jardine

- Bear Creek is concerned about child abuse background checks; held 2-day lift evacuation class; running an OEC class concurrently with EMR-- candidates will be able to take the EMR test at the end of the OEC class; patrol has a new website
- Eagle Rock is under new management; has become a more private ski area
- Valley Forge Memorandum of Understanding has been written and agreed upon but not yet signed
- Blue Mountain has had renovations over the past years; getting a grant for power plant; patrol is working with some new equipment; changed a few procedures for S&T checkouts so now it's more like a clinic
- Spring Mountain -- no report

Bob Bernatos said that Cascade wants to replace wooden seats on chair lift evacuation equipment. It was not a recall--it was a serviceability issue.

VI. Awards - Bob Bernatos and Steve Buzzard

Bob Bernatos talked about the Eastern Division Patroller Achievements Award and the 50 Year Service Award. The Award comes with a questionnaire to be completed. Bob Bernatos and Steve Buzzard presented the following awards:

Eastern Division 50 Year Service Award

David Pleet - Alumni
 Charles Lippencott - Alumni
 Peter Snyder - Alumni
 Robert Walker - Alumni
 John Stinsmen - Blue
 Joseph Winkler - Alumni

Robert Barette - Alumni
Michael Senio - Elk
Myron Scharko - Alumni
Dr. Chester Smith, M.D. - Alpine
Frederick Tim - Camelback
John Jagers - Mast Hope
Ronald Aucott - Alumni
David Silverstein - Alumni
Gorden Bell - Roundtop
Donald Kahler - Camelback
William Charron - Roundtop

Eastern Division Patroller Achievement Award

David Celommi - Jack Frost
Coleen Lambert - Jack Frost
Patricia Slutter - Shawnee
Mark Bucko - Whitetail
William Giovanoni - Elk
Stanley Wierzbicki - Elk
Paul Solomon - Elk
Michael Senio - Elk
Jack Shinn - Elk
Joseph Mazzoni, Sr. - Elk
Danny O'Rourke - Elk

Southwest Section MVP

Peter Nye - Liberty

Northern Section MVP

William Walthour - Montage

Eastern Division Patriot Star

Charles Dunn - Roundtop
Robert Wohlschlegel - Roundtop

Yellow Merit Star

William Walthour - Montage

Purple Merit Star

Carol Erno - Roundtop

Distinguished Service Award

Greg Johnson - Roundtop

National Appointment

David Christiansen #11700 - Elk

Mark Clem #11622 - Whitetail

Bill Zink #11624 - Whitetail

VII. Program Updates:

SOET - Ron Helm

Challenge test will be held at Whitetail; regular evaluation at Montage; working on a very strong program.

OEC Refreshers - Dennis Zercher

Bob Bernatos thanked Dennis and his staff for very successful OEC refreshers over the years. Dennis said that he posted the dates for next year's OEC refreshers; there have been numerous positive comments on how the OEC refreshers have changed; serviced approximately 900 patrollers in nine fall refreshers and 277 in the Instructor Refreshers; biggest problem was that some patrollers didn't understand that the refreshers are comprised of three components: online hybrid, paper workbook, and the actual OEC refresher; patroller reviews were overwhelmingly positive; already planning for next year's refreshers.

SOEC - Greg Johnson

Last year was a good year for turnout and pass rate was around 80-ish%. Had an additional clinic last year, which was successful. Plan to do that again this year. Dates for this year's clinics and tests are on the website. Greg thanked the TEs.

YAP - Meghan Eckhart

Let Meghan know about the YAPS at your mountain. See the calendar for the date of the YAP events. There will be a \$25 fee for registration, which will be refunded when the YAP attends. Eastern Division event is at Bromley Mountain.

Safety - Jim Policelli

The Region provides safety talks to ski clubs and other organizations; Jim welcomes help with the safety talks and is willing to drive anywhere in the Region. Best time for safety talks to be scheduled are early to mid fall before everyone gets busy with ski season.

MTR - Lou Marchi

Scheduled for Blue Mountain; currently 12 people signed up; might be canceled due to low registration; would like to see 18 + registrants. There is still time to sign up.

Avalanche - Rich Hartman

There have been slides on the East Coast; but the awareness for avalanches in western ski areas is very valuable. Already have 10 registrations this year.

Elections - Bob Bernatos for Matt Diloreto

Bob is in his third and final term as RD; Bob was disappointed in the 11% participation rate. Looking in to other methods for voting processes but does not want to go back to paper ballots. Wolfgang said that we need to advertise elections at OEC refreshers and perhaps even have a station for voting. National elections voting rate is 12-20%. Bob asked for people to reach out to him if they are interested in becoming the RD. He is happy to share knowledge over the next two years to those interested in the position in order to facilitate a fair election process.

Section chief elections next spring for Pocono and Central Section. Tony Alber plans to run for the Pocono Section and Inese Jardine will run for another term in the Central Section.

Alumni - Pat Cusick

Alumni events have been hovering between Montage and Roundtop with about 11 attendees. Camelback has offered to host for this year -- possibly doing it on a weekday. Roundtop has a model program for Alumni. National has an Alumni application for registering/re-registering online. Dues are \$27.00.

Communications - Greg Mohr

Help with licensing is available. Apps available on smartphones for communications.

Instructor Development - Brent Watts

Ran four classes this year for a total of 43 new instructor candidates. Must have 10 people to run an ID class. There will be a spring and fall class each year. Contact Brent if your mountain wants to host a class.

EMS - Dave Hayes

Will be brought up under new business.

Legal - Tim Kelly

Please participate in National elections.

Medical - Chet Smith

No report.

Professional Advisor - Joe Joyce

Stepping down as pro advisor. Joe is going alumni but will remain active in training. Bob Bernatos thanked Joe for his many years of service. A round of applause for Joe. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Bob.

Special Olympics - Bill Hudome

No report.

Women's Program - Inese Jardine

Being held at Montage the day before SOEC. The earlier you sign up, the better chance of getting registered.

Certified - Bob Bernatos for Brant Maley

It pays to get together and train ahead of time; a list will be put together for training.

License Plates - Howard Rosenthal

Contact Howard if you have any problems. Still receiving new applications.

VIII. Finances - Bob Bernatos

Bob displayed the current Balance Sheet. Discussed the new Quickbooks program, which offers a better picture of the finances. Currently operating in the "red." Bob wants expense reports submitted as soon as programs end. Discussion ensued about increasing income and reducing expenses. Charging for OEC refreshers was discussed. Raising dues was discussed to cover OEC expenses. National has been talking about a dues increase which would occur on a regular schedule. Once Bob has received all expense reports for the OEC refreshers, he will send an updated Balance Sheet to show whether or not eliminating coffee and donuts at refreshers has worked. Discussion continued about eliminating refreshments at the Regional meetings.

IX. Website - Bob Bernatos

Officers should make sure contact information is correct. Program advisors should keep information up to date and make sure it's accurate.

X. National, Division and Region News

- National's new software is on the way; currently testing the new software platform. A lot of data is probably missing or corrupt -- will need to rebuild. Patrol Directors should check OEC and CPR cards now -- before the season starts.
- National Mountain Host Program is growing; 8-hour first aid training has been added to it.
- National elections are open until December 15, 2015. Please vote.

Meeting was suspended at 11:58 AM for the lunch break.

Meeting was reconvened at 12:31 PM.

- Eastern Division will reimburse \$50 for any "50th Year" signs purchased after September 2015. Sign should be displayed in public area.
- Eastern Division Finances are strong.

- Background Checks -- The opinion is that anyone who works with YAPs should have background checks; but overall it's management's responsibility to outline policies at their ski areas. Bob will summarize the information pertaining to this subject and share with Patrol Directors.
- New DOH backboard protocols. Covered at OEC refreshers; now part of OEC guidelines. At the very least, patrols should discuss this with their local EMS providers to understand each organization's expectations.

XI. Open Discussion

Wolfgang Boernert commented on the new registration software that will be coming out; he believes that we should still do our own registration just to protect our records. Bob Bernatos said that he will submit Wolfgang's name to be one of the testers for the registration software.

Steve Sobolewski questioned why people were not able to get online for the hybrid. Steve also questioned if people were receiving their new OEC cards, and several patrollers said cards are being received.

Dennis Zercher questioned the process of deciding about charging \$5 to each patroller for the OEC refresher. Bob Bernatos will be evaluating the expenses from this fall's OEC refreshers and reporting that information to the patrols. This subject will be re-visited at the spring 2016 meeting.

Jim Policelli questioned what portion of our regional patrollers attend OEC refreshers outside of this region. Bob Bernatos said that it's mostly college students who refresh outside of the region.

Bob Bernatos asked if anyone wants to host a Region meeting.

XII. Adjournment

The Spring Meeting will be held on April 10, 2016; location to be announced. Thanks to Blue Mountain for hosting today's meeting. Thank you to everyone for attending. Motion made by Mike Dodge and seconded by Sean Fassett to adjourn the meeting at 1:06 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry