

Eastern Pennsylvania Region

Stated Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2016



I. Section Chiefs and Region Staff Meetings from 8:30 AM to 9:10 AM

II. Call to Order

Bob Bernatos, Region Director, called the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:30 AM on April 10, 2016 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. There was a moment of appreciation for the safe return of Roundtop patroller Elizabeth Van Winkle from her military tour in Afghanistan.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Steve Sobolewski and seconded by Mark Clem to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2015 meeting; motion approved.

V. Introductions

Tony Alber as the new Pocono Section Chief. Matt DiLoreto as the new Election Chair.

VI. Section Chief Reports

A. Northern - Paul Spear

Crystal Lake Nordic is now defunct due to a change in ownership. Most areas started about a month late. Montage has 4 new patrollers plus a transfer; and successful in the Senior program. Montage hosts many programs for the region, and we appreciate their efforts. Big Bear Mast Hope is opening new beginner area, has new candidates. Upper Delaware Nordic had one skiable day. Elk Mountain hosted patroller school which was attended by about 100 people; Elk has 6 new candidates; 1 new senior; will be hosting MTR in November.

B. Pocono - Tony Alber

Big Boulder closed 8 days ago; always looking for new patrollers; Jack Frost had 4 new candidates and has been doing S&T training first and then OEC; they closed on March 2nd; held a lot of refreshers; 2 of their YAPS became full seniors; Jack Frost owners bought Hunter and now they offer an "Epic Pass" to numerous east coast mountains. Ranchlands was opened for 2 weeks. Alpine has new patrol director, Meghan Eckhart, and will have paid patrollers through the week and volunteers on the weekend. Shawnee had 40th

anniversary; 2 cases of heroin overdoses at their mountain. Camelback changed their benefits by adding the choice of season passes or traditional chits; changed OEC schedule for doctors/paramedics; still recruiting heavily; worst season was '88 and '89; new hotel; Stevenson Lift can download guests; candidates for next year are invited to this year's banquet; donations intended for Camelback's patrol were sent to Division and have not yet been received by the patrol.

Bob Bernatos talked about Narcan and would like the Region to watch the trend on this and urged patrol directors to discuss the same with their medical directors. Discussion ensued about the Narcan program and possible ways to supply patrols with Narcan and training.

C. Southwest - Dick Bense

There are new patrol reps at Roundtop and Whitetail. Roundtop is looking for a new general manager. Whitetail had their 25th season. All three areas are part of Snowtime and some issues surfaced regarding mountain safety and the Mountain Host program; there was discussion on how the areas staff their mountains and looking towards the future; Whitetail and Liberty each have 2 new seniors; Whitetail holds a low angle rescue course.

D. Central - Inese Jardine

Short season; our section is concerned about retention and recruiting; Blue Mountain lost 13 patrollers gained 8; accidents were down; possibility of hosting certified boot camp at Blue; John Stinsmen received 60 year recognition, and Sharon Friedel received lifetime certified recognition. Eagle Rock resort went private; if you want to help, contact the patrol director prior to date so arrangements can be made for getting in the gate; open weekends; requested equipment from homeowners association with positive results; only have 15 patrollers and could use help. Bear Creek has 13 new patrollers and doing S&T first; 6 new candidates for the fall; they are holding a lift rescue course on July 6-7, 2016--call Phil, the patrol director, to register; Mountain Guard made some recommendations to Bear Creek's policies. Spring Mountain had a mass casualty event—things worked well; patrol is implementing electronic reporting system; mountain host program started with 6 members; Rich Brewer became a Certified Patroller. Valley Forge received their memorandum of Understanding.

VII. Awards - Bob Bernatos and Steve Buzzard

E DIV Patroller Achievement Award

William Securda, Montage Mountain

E DIV Patriot Star

Elizabeth Van Winkle, Roundtop

Adam McElroy, Camelback

NSPS Certificate of Appreciation

Whitetail Ski Patrol – 25 Years of Service

Patroller's Cross

Olivia Matthews, Spring Mountain

Yellow Merit Star

Bob Fisk, Camelback
Scott Spohn, Camelback
Robert Fidium, Jr., Montage
John Foster, Montage

Blue Merit Star

Rich Bell, Camelback
Susan Wiley, Camelback

Purple Merit Star

Lynn Leuber

National Appointment

Jeffery Robinson, Elk NA# 11750

Distinguished Service Award

Bob Bluff, Elk

NSP 50 Year Award (Patrol)

Camelback Ski Patrol

EPA Region 2015-2016 Outstanding Awards

Alpine Patroller: Patrick Cusick, Montage
Paid Patroller: Jack Shinn, Elk
Instructor: John Yanoviak, Roundtop
OEC Instructor: Christopher Frasier, Liberty
Large Alpine Patrol: Montage
Ed Hirshman Annual Service Award: Robert Bluff, Elk

NSP Hall of Fame

Howie Wyandt
William Ballek

VIII. Program Updates:

SOET - Ron Helm

Ran two programs; challenge at Whitetail where 10 out of 11 were successful;
Senior S&T test at Montage with a 70% pass rate; trying to give more information

to TEs about sending people to the tests who are better prepared and not use it as a training event.

OEC Refreshers - Dennis Zercher

Thank you everyone for all your help through the year. Refresher dates are on the EPA calendar; dates are heavy towards the end of the season due to other events hosted by the mountains; issues about workbooks not being completed prior to the refresher was discussed; remind all patrollers that the workbook must be completed. Completing the workbook AND the online hybrid appeared to be a duplication—this was discussed.

SOEC - Greg Johnson

Had 16 people take the exam at Montage and 11 passed (70% pass rate). Next year's schedule will be posted on the website. We are adding Shawnee and Spring Mountain for event locations. Thank you everyone!

YAP - Meghan Eckhart

Had to cancel the regional event at Blue Mountain; only one person was interested and Meghan had to work. Eight years ago, we had 35 YAPS, this year we have 10. Justin Asher did 4th overall at Division YAP event. The fee for the Division YAP event is \$375 which is for lodging, food, lift ticket, etc. When YAP writes a one-page letter within one week of the event and submits it to the Region Director, the YAP will be refunded \$100. There are NSP college scholarships available. We need younger patrollers. Please don't turn any interested young individuals away--give them Meghan's contact information. Bob Bernatos discussed the current status of the scholarship funds.

Safety - Bob Bernatos for Jim Policelli

Jim was in an auto accident last week and was not able to attend. Copies of safety reports are on the desk. If anyone wants to do a safety talk, please contact Jim.

MTR - Lou Marchi

Held at Blue this year. 15 students attended; we'd like to see more. Next year it will be held at Elk on the weekend before Thanksgiving. It's a great program. Please promote it.

Avalanche - Rich Hartman

Course held at Blue. Attendance number is down. We want to continue these courses; next year's program does not have a location yet. Please promote the MTR and Avalanche courses. The information is valuable, and you will always learn something new.

Elections - Matt Diloreto

I am new to a lot of you. Nothing new to report about elections. Everyone was running uncontested. No changes for this year. Bob Bernatos discussed electronic voting.

Alumni - Bob Bernatos for Pat Cusick

Please check the website for next year's Alumni event. Alumni benefits and their allowed duties were discussed.

Communications - Greg Mohr

The Ski Patrol can provide services to help with FCC registrations. Ultra-narrowbanding will effect all current radios. A final date to enforce ultranarrowbanding has not been set. Digital protocols were discussed. FCC compliance was discussed.

Instructor Development - Brent Watts

Ran 4 courses in 2015 and about 40 people attended. Hosting one in Spring Mountain (at the fire department) next week with 13 registered people. If you know of anyone who wants to attend, please tell them to register. If you'd like to host one, contact Brent. The current online ID course has been suspended pending review of the online program.

EMS - Dave Hayes

Narcan was discussed as well as the likelihood that patrols will be seeing more heroin overdose emergencies. Management will need to understand the magnitude of this drug abuse and endorse a policy. Bob Bernatos discussed the new backboard protocol and asked for feedback.

Legal - Bob Bernatos for Tim Kelly

Lawsuit at Liberty.

Medical - Chet Smith

No report.

Professional Advisor - Joe Joyce

No Report.

Special Olympics - Bill Hudome

No report.

Women's Program - Inese Jardine

Thank you Montage for hosting the Women's event this year; a few glitches with signups; more people want to attend and working on getting more instructors; please promote; any patroller from candidate through Senior level can attend.

Nordic - Pete Snyder

No report.

Certified - Bob Bernatos for Brant Maley

Three new certified pins were handed out at Sugarbush. The event will be held at Jay Peak next year. If you're interested in certified, contact Brant.

License Plates - Howard Rosenthal

Nothing new. We do turn a profit. You can get either standard or customized plates.

IX. Website - Bob Bernatos

Please get all information to Wolfgang so he can keep the website current. If information is stale, Wolfgang removes it. Bob Bernatos requested all historical information be supplied to him. Please reach out to seasoned patrollers (especially past officers) to see if they have any records they could share.

Meeting Break from 11:00AM to 11:20AM.

X. Finances - Bob Bernatos

Bob presented the budget. Still learning how to use Quickbooks and are looking to improve knowledge of program. Bob presented a profit/loss statement comparison and does not believe a dues increase will be necessary.

Possible expenditures on equipment were discussed. Purchasing a transport trailer was discussed. Storage of Region equipment was discussed. Bob Bernatos will get pricing, and this subject will be discussed at the Fall Region meeting.

The Balance Sheet was presented. The negative deficit was discussed, and Bob believes the numbers are wrong due to updating. Greg Mohr suggested that we table voting on the budget until the figures are accurate. Everyone agreed.

XI. National, Division and Region News

- 990s should be submitted to Region ASAP. Division wants the 990s by May 15, 2016.
- OEC: Instructors are teaching “the book” and should be “teaching the course.” National released video on how to teach the course, which instructors must view. The OEC written exam was discussed. The OEC online course was discussed.
- National Policies and Procedures have been updated on the National website. “Membership” was discussed. NSP courses and liability were discussed. Bob expects to get more answers at the Division meeting.
- National audits are up to date.
- Fundraising at National is going well.
- Pro Deals not always “deals” were discussed.
- Possible increase to National dues was discussed.

- Dave Walker is now the Education Committee chair. Bob will learn more about the Education updates at the Division meeting.
- Requirement for continuing education for instructors was discussed. S&T instructor requirements being developed.
- Corporate Donation issue: Corporations are sending their donations to the address of record for the EIN, which is the Division's address. Division has not been forwarding the donations to the patrols for which the donations were intended. Bob Bernatos is working to help set up a simple procedure for funds to be directed to the specified patrols.
- IT update from National: The new system's "go live" date is July 1, 2016. This will be a paperless system through National, including the collection of course fees. Each month, National will forward, via ACH, the fees generated by the course to the Region. Each patroller will be required to register their membership and pay their dues online each year. The Patrol Directors' "Yes/No Rosters" have to be approved prior to individual patrollers registering. Numerous questions regarding the accounting and reporting were discussed. Bob Bernatos kept track of questions, which will need to be addressed. Many concerns were expressed.

XII. Open Discussion

Jack Bogdon announced that the Camelback Ski Patrol will be holding a motorcycle fundraising rally on June 5, 2016. Wolfgang posted a flyer for this fundraiser on the NSP-EPA calendar page.

Steve Sobolewski brought up the Outdoor First Care program. Bob Bernatos gave basic details on the OFC program and the potential pitfalls of it. Steve discussed the objectives of the 12-hour OFC course and the unrealistic training that can be accomplished and the liability risks and dangers involved. National will be reviewing the Outdoor First Care program.

XIII. Adjournment

The Fall Meeting will be held in November 2016; date and location to be announced. Thanks to Blue Mountain for hosting today's meeting. Thank you to everyone for attending. Motion made by Jack Bogdon and seconded by Mitch Wise to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry