

Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes April 13, 2019



Section Chiefs and Region Staff Meetings From 8:30 AM to 9:35 AM

Sharon Friedel, Region Director, called to order the regular meeting of the National Ski Patrol Eastern Pennsylvania Region at 9:45 AM on April 13, 2019 at Blue Mountain Ski Area.

A moment of silence was held for Dick Murphy, Joseph Kearney, Reba Dein, Joseph Lopue, Karen Altenburg Ulshafer

A motion was made by Rich Hartman and seconded by Ed Kmetz to approve the Minutes of the November 11, 2018 meeting; motion carried.

The following introductions/staff changes were noted: Bobby Morgan re-elected as Northern Section Chief; Jay Thompson elected as Southwest Section Chief; James Widenor is new Montage Patrol Director; Tom Davis is new Jack Frost Patrol Director; Ryan Barone is new Whitetail NSP Rep, and Jack Bogdon is new Camelback paid Patrol Director.

SECTION CHIEF REPORTS:

Northern - Bobby Morgan

- **Montage:** Jim Widenor, new patrol director. Five candidates doing course online; problem with retention.
- **Big Bear at Mast Hope:** Ten candidates doing course online; issues with OET instructor certifications and NSP records.
- **Elk:** Hosted patroller school and SOET; two full Seniors; two new OEC instructors; two new OET instructors. John Doherty has 50 years of service; Mike Senio has 60 years of service.
- **Hideout:** Budget funded by Community Association; eight to ten patrollers; problem with retention. Two new magic carpets: one on tubing; one on the hill; possibility of patrol building expansion.
- **Upper Delaware Nordic:** Tough year with little snow; problem with retention. This year marks the patrol's 50-year anniversary.

Pocono - Tony Alber

- **Saw Creek:** Two candidates doing OEC at Jack Frost and OET at Camelback; \$600,000 in improvements.
- **Big Boulder:** Open 110 days; five candidates; two challenged the course. Work/patrol schedules have changed; ICS 100 being required by end of May. Lost 300 trees in last year's storm.
- **Camelback:** Focus on training and Senior programs; Ed Kmetz introduced OEC Stop the Bleed program; Geisinger Medical Team cross-training day; Ron Helm held clinic at the mountain; one lifesaving incident.
- **Shawnee:** Nine new candidates; four YAPs; staffing for the tubing park is hard to manage.
- **Ranchlands:** No accidents; open 22 days.
- **Jack Frost:** OEC Candidates using hybrid program. Added new clinic Awareness Impact of Social Media on Accident Scene. Introduced advanced MTR courses. Bob Evraets is ending 12 years as Patrol Director. Updating website; sending get well cards. Replaced wooden lift evac seats.

Southwest - Jay Thompson

- **Roundtop, Liberty, and Whitetail** - Jay is new Section Chief; first season under Peak Resorts; sorting out changes; all the Risk Managers are patrollers. Had opiate incidents. Mountain Host program being supported. Staff numbers being leveled out between resorts. Recruiting has been challenging. Accidents were down.

Central - Inese Jardine

- **Spring Mountain:** Three full Seniors; accidents were down; hosted SOEC; Medic 52 program.
- **Blue Mountain:** Eight candidates; ten new patrollers; two new seniors; hosting training. Redoing snowmaking; painting towers. Karen Ulshafer, who was instrumental in developing the Blue Mountain Ski Patrol, passed away.
- **Valley Forge:** Mediocre season due to rain; OEC training; working on Bike Patrol.
- **Bear Creek:** Nine new patrollers; 15 candidates; two YAPs this year and two more YAPs next year. Owner passed away; mountain became corporate-owned. Hosting EMR bridge course this year and EMT bridge course next year. One lifesaving incident.
- **Eagle Rock:** Closed this year. Feasibility study and long term planning to open ski resort for next year. Repairing lifts, adding snow guns, and groomer. Tubing was open this year.

PROGRAM/ADVISOR UPDATES:

Treasurer/Finances - Jack Bogdon 990s: Deadline is April 15, 2019. Have received only eight; waiting for 13 more. Mileage rate is now 35 cents/mile; revised expense report will be uploaded to Region website. Income: \$24,544. Expenses: \$23,796. Net income \$748. Cash on hand: \$4,000. Investment account: \$58,000.

Avalanche - Rich Hartman American Avalanche Association recognizes NSP courses, which may increase registrations. Encourage patrollers to take an Avalanche course. Next year's course possibly at Montage.

Certified - Sharon for Brant Maley Exam was at Jay Peak. Two candidates passed. Next year's exam at Sugarloaf.

Elections – Sharon for Matt DeLoretto Bobby Morgan was re-elected as Northern Section Chief; Jay Thompson was elected as Southwest Section Chief.

Instructor Development – Brent Watts Being held at Camelback on April 20, 2019. About 20 registrants. Must complete ID course to become an instructor in any discipline. Online option still requires six hours practical class time.

MIST – Wolfgang Boernert Program advisors should update website pages with a focus on marketing each program. Calendar has been updated with OEC schedule; registration opens about 60 days before each one.

MTR – Howard Rosenthal for Lou Marchi MTR is always scheduled the weekend before Thanksgiving. This year's event is November 23-24, 2019, possibly at Montage. Was held at Blue Mountain last year for 15 patrollers. MTR course includes ICS 100. Course can be taken more than once. Will accept non-patrollers if a class is not full.

OEC – Dennis Zercher OEC refreshers consist of three required components: online hybrid, completed workbook, attendance at OEC refresher. Will not be admitted to OEC refresher without online hybrid certificate and completed workbook. OEC refresher schedule is posted online.

PA License Plate Program – Howard Rosenthal Program was implemented in 2010. Gross sales to date: Total plates: 314; custom plates: 21; standard plates: 293. Gross sales: \$12,457.00 minus productions costs; yielding a modest profit. New applications have been issued from PennDot. Looking for an assistant to have a succession plan in place.

Patroller School – Sharon Friedel for Matt Nebzydoski Patroller School had 102 patrollers attend. Recerted six TEs. NSP instructors were assisted by PSIA instructors. Elk made bumps even with adverse

weather. West Point patrol moved to a separate date. Every patroller who applied was able to attend. Used Division's patrollerschool.org for registration. Adjustments to the food menu made it profitable; running at no cost to the Region. The partnership with PSIA for members to attend their clinics will be refined for next year.

Pro Program – Terry Ownes Joe Joyce retired. Gathering information and feedback for this program. Considering an end-of-season or off-season get together.

Risk Management – Sharon Friedel for Ed Kupillas Skiers and snowboarders are both referred to as skiers. Courts have ruled several times that collisions involving two skiers are an inherent risk of the sport. In PA, it is difficult to get an award from another skier. Liability increases if one of the skiers is wearing a resort uniform/jacket. If one party was drinking at the resort's lounge, notify risk management. Document all information, including names of all parties involved, even if a skier is not injured.

SOEC - Sharon Friedel for Mark Leukus Successful year but participation was down. Tested a total of 23 SOEC candidates; 20 passed = 87% pass rate. Planning only two clinics and two evaluations next season. Considering removing Hare traction splints from from the equipment bags. Let Mark know if any mountains are interested in hosting a clinic or test.

SENIOR AID ROOM MODULE – Sharon Friedel for Carol Erno Was held at Roundtop; four candidates passed. Recommending changes: Space out the stations; do not let candidates pick the scenarios; be more specific with instructions and expectations prior to class participation. Bob Bernatos stated this certification can make a patroller eligible for a Leadership Accommodation Appointment.

SOET - Sharon Friedel for Ron Helm Annual TE meeting cancelled due to lack of terrain/weather. Held several smaller clinics for updating TE's. Building a good relationship with local PSIA instructors. SOET was held at ELK with 22 candidates; all passed. Planning to have a group of traveling IT's and TE's to help with local training/clinics for any patrol. Question was raised about Mountain Instructor records going back two years not being accurate and not getting help to correct them. Bob Bernatos and Ron Helm will discuss. Requesting an IT for the Pocono Section.

Telecommunications – Greg Mohr NSP has 18 channels available for training, testing, and other administrative purposes; can get licensing forms to anyone interested. FirstNet has been accepted in to the program. FCC wants to switch to all digital by 2022; concerns about digital not transmitting distances may delay this.

YAP – Megan Eckhart Division YAP event held at Jiminy Peak; five from our Region attended; one placed third, overall. YAPs should be made aware of this great opportunity; about 80% of YAPs remain within the NSP system. Considering Region YAP day during Christmas week and a one-day seminar in March prior to Division event. Patrol Directors should provide Megan with names of YAPs. YAP flyers to be distributed at OEC refreshers. Must be 15 years old by January 1st of the candidate year. Child protection policy being developed by National.

Women's – Inese Jardine Women's clinic was scheduled too early in season; cancelled due to no snow. If you can't attend a Region Women's clinic, visit patrollerschool.org for a schedule of other clinics.

Open Positions: Nordic – if interested, notify Sharon.

Awards – Sharon Friedel for Steve Buzzard

NSP Award Nominations processed: 9 NSP Outstanding Nominations; 3 Patroller's Cross; 1 NSP Hall of Fame; 6 National Appointments; 9 Meritorious Service Awards; 2 Purple Merit Stars; 4 Blue Merit Stars; 2 Yellow Merit Stars = 36 total NSP awards. *Eastern Division Award Nominations processed:* 3 E DIV 50 Year

Awards; 32 E DIV Patriot; Stars; 7 E DIV Patroller Achievement Awards = 42 Total E DIV Awards. The Eastern Division Awards Advisor resigned in January. The new Awards Advisor is Sue-Ellen Helmacy. Working on submitting all nominations to National electronically.

AWARDS:

Eastern Division Patroller Achievement:

Steven Andre, Elk
Joseph Mazzoni, Elk
Bonnie Alco, Elk
Ronald Lahnemann, Elk
Lucas Politts, Elk
Val Larioni, Hideout
Richard J. Long, Hideout
David Celommi, Jack Frost

Eastern Division Patriot Star:

Paul B. Solomon, Elk
Edward Bovell, Spring
David J. Marks, Spring
James P. Cahill, Spring
Paul J. Spear, Elk
Valerie Witherington, Spring
John Jagers, Big Bear
Gerald Dulay, Big Bear
James T. Kille, Big Bear

Region Awards:

Irv Naylor Partners in Industry: Phil Barker, Bear Creek
Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol: Blue Mountain
Outstanding Patrol Rep: Nick Schaefer, Blue Mountain
Outstanding Administrative Patroller: Nancy Mayberry, Camelback
Outstanding OEC Instructor: Rich Messina, Camelback
Outstanding Instructor: Leigh Linder, Bear Creek
Region Directors Award: Bob Bernatos, Roundtop
Outstanding Alumni Award: Ed Hirshman, Roundtop
Outstanding Alpine Patroller: Ryan Molloy, Blue Mountain
Outstanding Paid Patroller: John Doremus, Bear Creek
Edward F. Hirshman Annual Service: Sotty Nedal, Jack Frost (posthumous)

NATIONAL, DIVISION, REGION UPDATES - Sharon Friedel

National:

NBOD – All board members are working well together. There are many RFA's being processed. Some of the committee projects include non-member course fees, NSAA Joint Statement of Understanding, Safety Team being re-energized, profile updates, long range planning, and child safety.

OEC – Refresher Cycle C is wrapping up. The online hybrid part will have similar modules to last year each lasting only 3-4 minutes. Bill DeVarney of the Eastern Division has been appointed as the OEC National Program Director.

ICS 100 - In April 2017, the NSP board voted for members to complete the Incident Command System (ICS) 100 by end of 2019. ICS 100 will be required for all new candidates taking the OEC course. It is a separate

registration. Each patrol should have the ICS-100 course registered for current patrollers; IOR can be any instructor. The IOR should verify course completion by viewing the ICS-100 completion certificate. The online course and other information may be found on this website: <https://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/ICSResource/TrainingMaterials.htm>.

Eastern Division:

Elections - Eastern Division endorsed four candidates for the National Board; all four were elected. Eastern Division had 49.79% of all cast ballots. However, participation within the Eastern Division was at 30.28%. EPA Region had 12.94% of all cast ballots with a 41.47% participation within the Region. Eastern Division will likely support two candidates this year - one from Eastern Division and one from another division. We need to keep the momentum going year after year.

Programs – OET, YAP, and a few other events were registered utilizing the PatrollerSchool.org web site. The process is similar to what Wolfgang does with EventBrite. It worked well and saved time with registrations and payments. They will utilize it for more programs next year.

MISC – Ron Gerdes is looking for patrollers that have started brands of ski/snowboard products. He is looking at doing an editorial letter for the NSP magazine focusing on some patroller-started businesses. Any info is appreciated. Contact Ron Gerdes, Mortal Ski Company, 859-816-6687

SOM Meeting – May 3-5 in Albany.

EPA Region:

OEC Delinquent Roster – There were 129 listed on the delinquent roster in January. Out of that number, approximately 50 are alumni and another 50 are no longer patrolling. The remaining patrollers did not register correctly with National. These names were reviewed with the PD's and all have been straightened out except for about three.

Registration – PDs - check your patrollers' registration status near the end of the year, and remind your patrollers to submit their dues on time to avoid late penalties.

Reimbursements – Eastern Division has now requested expense reimbursement requests to be submitted within 30 days of an event or activity. EPA Region will also follow this recommendation.

Elections – It is an election year for Region Director. As of the end of March, no nominations have been submitted. The election process will take place during the fall refreshers.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Tony Alber stated Mark Clem asked for help from patrollers at an event in Delaware.
- Inese Jardine asked if any other resorts had problems with Fitbits calling 911.
- Bob Bernatos said National has no plans to add to current software; considering new software; testing will occur before implementing. A request was made to get testing to the user level for feedback to National.
- Submit awards to Section Chief for fall meeting.
- The EPA Fall Line Officers Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2019.

Motion made by Tony Alber and seconded by Greg Mohr to adjourn the meeting at 11:45AM. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry