

Eastern Pennsylvania Region Stated Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2015



I. **Section Chiefs, Patrol Directors, Region Director, and Advisors Mini-Sessions from 8:40 AM to 9:30 AM**

II. **Call to Order**

Bob Bernatos, Region Director, called the regular meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Region to order at 9:45 AM on April 18, 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. **Introductions**

Flo Rutherford from Division is here today. Welcome back Sue Ballek as the Pocono Section Chief. Lou Marchi is the MTR Advisor replacing Pat Haughton. We need an Election Chair; please nominate some individuals. New Historian is Vincent Bulzoni from Montage; he is not here today. All the Eastern Division historical records are currently being catalogued at Dartmouth. If anyone has historical documentation/records to share with the historian, it would be greatly appreciated.

V. **Awards - Bob Bernatos and Steve Buzzard**

Steve Buzzard handed out Patroller Achievement Award Nomination Forms and explained about the nomination process. Bob Bernatos and Steve Buzzard presented the following awards:

Eastern Division Patriot Star:

Charles Dunn – Roundtop
Robert Wohlschlegel – Roundtop

Patroller's Cross:

Debi Friedenber-Kapsak – Whitetail
Joan Badoud – Big Bear
Tom Davis – Jack Frost
Steve Polansky – Jack Frost
Mike Bond – Jack Frost
Lance Anderson – Montage
Tom Talarico - Montage

National Certificate of Appreciation:

Phillip Yzeik – Big Bear

Purple Merit Star:

Doug Rice – Whitetail

James Barton – Big Bear

Blue Merit Star:

Connor Badoud – Big Bear

Keith Lefler – Whitetail

Tim Grove – Whitetail

Yellow Merit Star:

David Celommi – Jack Frost

Leadership Commendation Appointment:

Nancy D'Ambrosio – Jack Frost, #8483

Bill Bogler – Jack Frost, #8481

EPA 2014-15 Annual Outstanding Awards:

Large Alpine Patrol: Liberty Mountain Ski Patrol

Instructor: Patrick Haughton – Roundtop

OEC Instructor: Steve Sobolewski – Liberty

Patrol Representative: Steve Burkholder – Roundtop

Alpine Patroller: Justin Guth – Blue Mountain

Young Adult Patroller: Ben Longacre – Blue Mountain

EPA Annual Service Award: Greg Wasson – Roundtop

VI. Section Chiefs Reports

A. Northern - Paul Spear

- Hideout Patrol Director is going Alumni. Bryan Schumacher is becoming the next Hideout Patrol Director. Hideout lost 5 patrollers this season. They currently have 8 active Patrollers. They only had 17 accidents this year. They added a small terrain park and improved their tubing area.
- Montage had 87,000 skier visits; 31% represented new skiers; 4 new seniors; hosted a number of events this season; 7 new patrollers; 9 candidates for upcoming season; one transfer; hosting a golf tournament this Monday; hosting a Poker Run June 28th; provide first aid support for Scranton half marathon; supporting a 5k run tomorrow.
- Big Bear is enlarging their beginners' area; expanding their patrol building; anticipating having a class next year; recruiting now; hosting a class for their Mountain Hosts to provide CPR training.

- Upper Delaware hosted a Snowshoe Day hike.
- Elk has 6 new patrollers; 1 transfer; Patrollers School in January had over 100 people in attendance; hosted a group of West Point cadets; 1 new senior; 2 people passed Senior S&T; provided first aid at a couple of marathons; started a YAP program, 1 YAP did well at the Eastern Division YAP program at Jiminy Peak.
- If you have suggestions for enhancing the Senior program, contact Paul Spear.

B. Pocono - Sue Ballek

- All ski areas were open this year. Two areas are in private communities and are treated strictly as an “amenity.”
- All areas are in different phases with adding patrollers; some do S&T before OEC and found this to be very successful. Camelback has Open Houses two times a year; they also added a “shadow” program where interested applicants come back and spend the day with Patrollers; this has been successful.
- Camelback’s management donated two season’s passes for a raffle to benefit the Ski Patrol. Camelback mails a “Wellness Card” to their injured guests, which has generated a great response from patients who sent nice thank you letters and some have sent donations. The thank you letters and pictures of patients sent to the Camelback Ski Patrol have been great for morale. Camelback has a new hotel opening soon.
- This was Alpine’s first year under new ownership. They had a few bumps but are working through everything. Alpine also has an ice skating rink which did not open this year.
- Communication to your Patrollers about area information, changes, etc., is important since changes happen regularly.
- OEC and the 5th Edition continues to be a topic of discussion. It was a general consensus that the written test is very poor. There are too many questions that address obscure areas of care that Ski Patrollers provide. Some Patrols have extended the length of the class to teach all the OEC material in the 5th Edition.
- Big Boulder is still open.
- Bob Bernatos said he met Stu Gillard, the Patrol Director of Delaware Valley Ski Patrol. They talked about the Shad Fest where DVSP is very successful in their recruiting activities.

C. Southwest - Dick Bensel

- Whitetail has another Certified Patroller; had 5 transfers and added 9 patrollers; 5 new seniors. Whitetail has opened to the Region a Low-Angle Rescue course in the fall. Whitetail had 2 articles written about them in the Ski Patrol magazine. They will be celebrating their 25th year next year.
- Roundtop had 7 new alpine Patrollers; one young individual failed the OEC written test. Roundtop has 2 new Seniors and 3 S&T TEs; they added banners on the mountain for recruiting Ski Patrol applicants; have 14 candidates this year.
- Liberty has 13 new patrollers; 2 new Seniors; 1 S&T TE; 8 candidates this year; developed 3 S&T instructors and 3 OEC instructors; Liberty and Whitetail did a night lift evac after the season closed. Management added a lot more policing on the slopes, and it has impacted the number of accidents.
- Communications with National needs to improve.

D. Central - Inese Jardine

- Bear Creek started late; looking at re-doing the tubing; 14 candidates; 5 new patrollers; 133 active patrollers; had over 600 injuries. Patrollers liked receiving feedback on their patients; mountain is looking for a General Manager; the Patrol benefited from a lift rescue course prior to a live lift evac. They are running the lift rescue course again this year; have a Mountain Host program which is working well.
- Blue Mountain has 182 patrollers; 4 new candidates; several new seniors; they are maintaining a paper trail on their patrollers, which is running efficiently.
- Spring Mountain has 6 new seniors; 71 active patrollers; had 200 injuries; received positive feedback from EMS on one of their serious accidents; 1 new TE.
- Valley Forge is still working on their Memorandum of Understanding.
- Eagle Rock has 15 patrollers; 60 injuries; they are only opened on weekends; would appreciate help from other patrollers.

VII. Miscellaneous

Bob Bernatos gave a list of people that he needs Officer Affirmations from.

VIII. Program Updates:

S&T - Ron Helm

Wants all S&T advisors to have a full day S&T clinic; start talking to people about the S&T Senior program; it is a worthwhile program. Bob Bernatos learned at Powderfall this year that a Senior S&T test requires a slope of 22 degrees and 800 continuous feet.

OEC - Dennis Zercher

Hybrid will most likely happen again this year; refresher dates are on the calendar.

YAP - Meghan Eckhart

Blue Mountain hosted the Regional YAP event; having issues with YAPs canceling at the last minute or not showing up; next year there will be a \$25 deposit fee that will be reimbursed to the YAPs who show up; the Division YAP event was held at Jiminy Peak; only had 2 kids from our Region attend; they did well. If you know of kids who want to join the Ski Patrol, I can help them find mountains. We need younger kids to join this organization.

Safety - Jim Policelli

Generally, safety talks are given to ski clubs; it would be best if we could build our "talk schedule" in the fall; we use two different subjects: Reaffirmation that Skiing is a Risk Sport; and The Aging Skier and Personal Protection and Stretching. If you know of a group or organization who would like a safety talk, contact Jim Policelli.

MTR - Lou Marchi

Last year 27 people went through the course at Roundtop; looking to do MTR2 this season; looking for MTR instructors; MTR2 is a requirement for becoming an instructor.

Elections - Position Open

Chair needed as soon as possible.

Alumni - Pat Cusik

Would like to host Alumni Day in the Pocono Region this this year; need a volunteer mountain to host the event.

Communications - Greg Mohr

There have been questions on the mikes on the personal radios.

Instructor Development - Brent Watts

Ran 3 classes last season. If you take the online course, it's a National requirement that you still have to meet with an ID trainer for a minimum of 6 hours. National does not advertise this requirement. Some people are upset after taking online course and then having to meet with an ID trainer. Courses are scheduled for this year.

Legal - Tim Kelly

Nothing new to report.

Professional Advisor - Joe Joyce

Meeting next season at Camelback.

Women's Program - Inese Jardine

Very successful and popular program; had to turn people away. Please recommend this program; the ladies enjoy it. Had 21 women attend; tried to run one during the week at Camelback but had to cancel with 12 women enrolled because the mountain closed due to ice storm.

Avalanche - Rich Hartman

Small course at Roundtop had 9 participants; really top notch course; Patrol Directors feed these programs but some mountains don't feed their patrollers to this program; there were some problems with registration this year; this has been worked out. If your mountain would like to hold a course, we can schedule it. Like to hold MTR and Avalanche at the same location.

Certified - Bob Bernatos

One successful candidate from Whitetail; program was a little thin this year; if you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them talk to a certified patroller; encourage your patrollers to take that step.

License Plates - Howard Rosenthal

If you are having a problem, please contact me. You can get a custom NSP plate with letters -- it is an additional \$100 charge.

OET - Dave Johnson

Thanked the senior OETs for an exceptional year. No negative feedback this year. The test at Montage had 71% pass rate; Blue Mountain had 83% pass rate. Three clinics in 2016 and two evaluations in 2016. Check the dates on the calendar.

EMS Liaison - Dave Hayes

Transfer of Care form gives a method of passing off information to the responding EMS service; issues with the EMR certification and Patrollers' scope of practice; Patrollers should continue to operate under OEC guidelines. The reason for getting involved with EMR is additional liability protection for patrollers. Advises new OEC technicians to take the EMR course/test.

Bear Creek still has QRS status; other three areas are no longer QRS. To have QRS status, every Patroller has to have either state EMT or EMR status.

IX. Finances - Bob Bernatos

Bob presented the Financial Statements for the Region. When he took the office, the Region had \$85,000 extra funds. There is about \$59,000. The Region purchased a lot of equipment for the Senior programs and for the Refreshers.

The general rule is to have about 1.5 times the amount of operating expenses. We are at that number now.

Bob Bernatos presented the budget. We received \$9,600/year in dues. The investment account brought in about \$1,500 this year. Bob discussed the various expenses. Expenses are exceeding income by \$7,200 this year; so we are operating on a negative budget. We have to look at areas to cut. Bob would like to balance the budget while he is in office. Discussion ensued about areas in the budget that can be cut and what should not be cut. A motion was made by Bobby Morgan to pass the Budget as presented, Inese Jardine seconded the Motion. All voted to accept the Budget except Mark Clem who opposed. The budget was approved.

**Meeting was suspended at 11:50 AM for the lunch break.
Meeting was reconvened at 12:40 PM.**

- X. After lunch, a discussion ensued about reducing or eliminating the coffee and donuts at OEC refreshers. Dennis Zercher would like to see the host mountains provide the coffee and donuts since most of the Patrollers attending are from the host mountains. Sue Ballek said that the cost of coffee and donuts has become expensive and that we should no longer pay for it. Mitch Wise made a motion to pay for coffee and donuts at instructor refreshers only and to provide a dollar limit. Bob Bernatos suggested to set that limit at \$3.00/head at OEC instructor refreshers. Discussion ensued about it not being fair or right to pay for coffee and donuts at the instructor refreshers but not at the patroller refreshers. A vote was taken on the Motion. Three were for it and about 25 opposed. Motion was denied. Bob said he will write in the newsletter that coffee and donuts will not be paid for/provided by the Region but the hosting Patrols and ski areas are still welcome to provide coffee and donuts on their own; expect feedback from patrollers regarding this.
- XI. **Website Updates**
Please review the content on the website for your programs and let Wolfgang know of any changes. Please do this as soon as possible so that Wolfgang is not inundated in the fall.
- XII. **National, Division and Region News**
- Bob Bernatos went to the National Board meeting while attending Powderfall.
 - **OEC**
Ed McNamara presented OEC information. Key areas: The 4th Edition was a copy of an EMT manual. An explanation of the differences between the 4th and 5th Editions was given. The goal was to avoid management by state EMS systems but to meet the needs of ski area management. It is very clear that NSP does not want Patrollers to be regulated by the EMS system.

Don't teach the OEC manual; the objectives are highlighted and should be taught. There are problems with the written OEC test. They are working on correcting it. The pass rate is over 90%; many people thought that number was high. Don't teach Chapter 36. They are in the process of re-writing the Instructor Development program.

Sue Ballek spoke of the pros and cons of the ID Phase II and the Mentoring program. Flo Rutherford said the mentoring program was not structured and that was its downfall.

There has been a lot of success with the OEC online course and having the class meeting once a month. There was discussion of having a Region OEC online course and then having areas provide the practical teachings.

Standard of Training is what you are taught in the OEC manual. Standard of Care is the care you are allowed to provide on the mountain according to the individual mountain protocols. One thing discussed was that NSAA was looking at local protocols that would allow providing the level of care that individuals have been specifically trained for beyond their OEC certification--whether they are an EMT, nurse, doctor, etc.

Patroller lifecycle is starting to see more younger people involved with NSP.

There was a Meeting at the YAP event at Jiminy Peak. There were discussions about YAPS, the IT Committee, and Powderfall, etc. An Education Director was chosen from over 80 applicants.

- **990s**

Please get these in ASAP. They must be in by May 1st. The Region has to submit to the Division by June 1st. We have received three 990s so far. Patrols will be assessed a fee of \$10/day for late submissions.

- **Staff Changes**

Certified Supervisor: Chris Broderson
New Education Director: Dr. Sheila Summers
New Director of Finance: Jamie Bruhl
Finance Chair: Rick Knight
IT Chair: Chris Pringle

- **Miscellaneous**

NSP instructors are supposed to be taking con-ed courses; this is not a well-known fact.

NSP is working on stabilizing their software platform. Phase I should be done by the end of November. The second phase of the IT process will be working on the online courses.

Partnership with PSIA, SIA, NSAA, and NSP to share one building and services. Having everyone under one roof would improve communications.

NSP Medallion for Deceased Patrollers' Headstones may be become available in the NSP catalog.

Strategic Planning is being worked on. Procedures are now being documented. Code of Conduct is under re-write.

Finances were in good order at National and Division.

Fundraising has been very active.

Trying to put more program content online.

Lift evacuation procedures and risk area manuals are being written.

YAP classification will be added.

XIII. Open Discussion

How are Patrols handling Act 153? Bob Bernatos said that legal advisors have stated that this is a local area decision. Discussion ensued about the possible affects this will have on patrollers. Bob asked for any information about this to be sent to him.

Individuals must be 15 years of age to join the NSP. To take an OEC course you must be an NSP member--a candidate must be a member first. If you register after July 1st, your dues will carry over to the following year. You can not do anything online unless you are a member because you will need an NSP number to sign in to the NSP website. The OEC test will eventually be online. Also, if something happens to a non-member of the NSP during a course, all liabilities fall to the instructor and to the area. The dues that are required to be an NSP member who is taking an NSP course are National dues only: \$57. Bob will investigate the policies and procedures on this and share this information.

Mitch Wise asked about the Mountain Host program. Bob Bernatos said that the Mountain Host program satisfies the requirement of volunteers being allowed to volunteer at a "for profit" organization.

XIV. Adjournment

Thanks to Blue Mountain for hosting today's meeting. Thank you to everyone for attending. Motion made by Paul Spear and seconded by Mitch Wise to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Nancy Mayberry