

**CT Region NSP Leadership & Advisors Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday March 20, 2024**  
**Zoom conference 1901-2017**



**Patrol Directors:** Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Ron Fenner (Southington); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic, MTR)

**Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:** Walt Behuniak (Southington); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge)

**CT Region Admin:** Skip Mudge (RD); Kenn Kostuk (Housatonic Section Chief); Liz Fenner (Treasurer)

**Advisors:** Peter Bayer (ROA); Berni Fowler (Assistant ROA); Michael Gajdosik (ID); Rick Knight (Awards); Justin Regan (Certified, Sr OET Training Coordinator); Larry Hyatt (Sr. OEC Training Coordinator, Administrative Assistant); Bob Cassello (Alumni); Neil Glagovich (Sr Program Coordinator); Roger DelGiorno (Bike Advisor); Steve Goldblatt (Medical, Safety); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications)

**Guests:** Ken Joyce; Greg Bruhin (ARD elect)

**Absent:** Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown); Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Jake Worstell (Pahquioque); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown, Snowboard); Mark Pahmer (ARD); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief, YAP); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team); Melanie Muszynski (Assistant Safety Team); Cally Regan (Women's Program); Paul Katz (Snowboard); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche & Nordic/Backcountry); John Boorjian (Historian); Jonathan Ruhe (Legal); John Segretta (Website, Technology); Dan Miller (Elections)

## **REGIONAL, DIVISION AND NATIONAL ITEMS**

- The CT Region Spring Officers' Meeting (SOM) will be held on Tuesday April 16 at 6:00PM in the Mountain Room at Mt Southington.
- The CT Region Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday June 8.
  - Nominations for Instructor of the Year, Patroller of the Year, Mentor of the Year should be submitted to Skip. Nominees will be discussed and voted on (anonymously) during a zoom meeting.
- Annual Reports are due by April 1, after they are reviewed, they will be posted on the website and on a Goggle drive, accessible by all advisors, patrol reps and officers. Any questions please contact Skip.
- Expense Reports
  - All programs need to get their expense reports in. If not using the money that was allocated in the budget let Liz Fenner know.
  - Election Runner was not used this year. We will have to budget for this in 2025.
  - Waiting on the Alumni Day expenses.
  - Justin Regan will check with Cally about the Woman's program.
- Website
  - Everyone should check the website and confirm their information is up to date.
  - There is a new patrollers section (<https://www.ctnsp.org/new-patrollers>). Please submit names of new patrollers during the last year or two and include any certifications they've obtained.
- Open Positions
  - Deb Foss is retiring as the Eastern Division OEC Supervisor. If anyone is interested in the position or knows of someone who is, let Skip or Cal know.
  - The successor to Kristen Russo as Women's Advisor has been named but not yet released.
  - Bill Zink has been appointed as Eastern Division Certified Program Supervisor. James O'Connor, former ED OET Supervisor has been appointed as National OET Program Director Supervisor.

- YAP
  - Skip attended the recent Eastern Division YAP Summit at Smuggs in Vermont. The Winter Officers' Meeting was also held there. Rich Pietrafesa (National Chair) shared some thoughts.
    - Rich was impressed with the Division's YAP program.
    - Rich wants to “lower the temperature” on the board. He also wants to focus on the 80% of patrollers that are not in leadership positions but are essential to NSP and our ski areas. NSP should focus on supporting the regular members.
    - Rich also said that while losing some big sponsors is not good, it is not all that bad, as relying on few big sponsors is not a good or sustainable business model. The organization should utilize fund raisers and take more advantage of available government grants.
    - The online store has a huge warehouse in Colorado representing \$750,000 in assets. We should outsource the catalog, freeing up a lot of capital and allow us to rent or lease the warehouse which could easily be reconfigured into office space.
    - NSP may hire a public relations firm to help us improve our image in the industry.
    - Rich also thinks the NSP Policies & Procedures should be “trimmed” down and be made more readable, moving some items to a new, redesigned Patroller’s Manual which is easier to revise and update.
- Region Emails
  - We are going to set up gmail accounts that belong to positions (e.g., Pequot Section Chief, Treasurer, Legal Advisor, Snowboard Advisor, etc.). We will not set up gmail accounts for PDs, unless they request one, as many already have addresses tied to the ski area. This will allow for better continuity as officers and advisors change. Peter Bayer will roll this out gradually, and will contact people about this individually.
  - As of April 1, the [ctnsproa@gmail.com](mailto:ctnsproa@gmail.com) will go to Berni Fowler. Greg Bruhin (ARD elect) and Neil Glagovich (Senior Program Coordinator) will be receiving new region emails soon.
- Housatonic Section
  - Kenn Kostek, Housatonic Section Chief, sent out notes last year to PDs requesting the dates of their on-the-hill refreshers so he could attend, address the patrols, and find out what he as Section Chief could help them with. He did not get any responses.
  - Kenn will also talk to John Segretta to see if those dates can be publicized on the Region website. In addition to inclusion in the calendar, we will add a webpage listing upcoming events, such as training classes, OEC makeups, etc. Please send your upcoming dates to Skip.

## PROGRAMS

- Alumni
  - The CT Region Alumni Day was held on February 27 at Ski Sundown with 14 people in attendance. The cost was \$12 for tickets and lunch, a breakfast was provided as well. As Sundown comp'd the tickets and only charged the \$12 for the meals, there was no cost to the Region. Kudos were given to Bob Switzgable of Sundown for the very gracious hosting.
  - Next year's Alumni Day has been put on the calendar for March 4, 2025 at Ski Sundown. Bob suggested local patrols might want to host their own event so people wouldn't have to travel as far, send feedback to Bob Cassello.
- Bike
  - There won't much down time for some patrollers as the Bike season is getting ready to ramp up. Roger will work with John Segretta to get more of a presence on the Region website.
  - Looking to see what other Bike patrols are out there and to connect with them.

- The Bike patrollers will be working (riding and supporting) the 40-mile Closer to Free ride in New Haven this September. Might be able to get the Safety tent set up and support the event. Setting up a tent could provide first aid support for an event as well as advertising Bike Patrol and Ski Patrol. Utilizing the tent might support a fund raiser. Anyone interested in riding or helping should contact Roger DelGiorno.
- There might be another event in September where the Safety tent might also be able to be used.
- The Bike Patrol will have a breakout session at the upcoming PowderFall. They will explore how the Winter skills translate to the bike skills, what is unique and what must be developed. Tim Franz, the Eastern Division Bike Supervisor, will be presenting. The program is looking to have patrollers become instructors and IT's.
- Certified
  - Certified testing took place this past weekend at Sugarbush. 5 candidates attended, one completed all of the requirements, another candidate in their first year (from Gore Mountain) passed all but one module, the other three candidates are in various stages of completing their requirements.
  - John Kane was recognized with Lifetime Membership where he no longer has to re-certify, unless he wants to continue evaluating OET skills, which he will likely do.
  - Peter Neefus has been inducted into the National Hall of Fame (the fifth inductee ever).
  - Next year the Certified testing will likely take place at Jay.
- ID
  - No new information.
- OEC
  - Will be emailing IT's looking for preferences in being ITORs for the upcoming OEC classes. Peter is the ITOR for Pahquioque's class.
  - Camp Sloper has been booked for the Fall's OEC Refreshers. Sunday October 27 for Day 2 is OK, but Sunday October 20 for Day 1 was already booked, so went with Saturday October 19. Will have to publicize this change aggressively.
- Senior
  - Three people have completed their Senior requirements of OET, OEC, and electives, they are Sheeri Cormier, Jason Duan, and John Ozolins. Two others have completed the OET and OEC but have not yet completed the electives, they are Nick Pulcini and James Wolff. Neil sent out inquiries to all participants in a Sr program this year looking for information about possible electives taken but received – no feedback.
- Telecommunications
  - Nothing new to report from Division or National.
  - Best practices say to remove batteries from radios during off season and to store them in cool dry locations.
- Awards
  - Rick Knight sent out requests for information for the Stan Ellison Continuing Education Award nominations. He asked for rosters from any classes that were offered this past season so he can run the statistics.
  - Rick said there are lots of awards this year and he will be sending names out to PDs so they can contact their people.
  - Rick has processed all of the completed nominations he has received, but still needs information on many to finish processing.

## Other Business

- Powder Ridge is looking for timing options in running their new OEC class. They are thinking of doing the book and online portions this Spring and then the hands-on material in the Fall. Part of the reasoning for doing this is they might have a number of YAPs in the class and want to minimize the Fall load when students often have many things going on. They were looking for feedback from others who have run similar programs. Pahquioque has run split classes and have offered to provide feedback.
- Powder Ridge passed on that after skiing is complete and before Bike gets started that the mountain intends to start a Paintball program on April 8. The program will use multiple fields and has partnered with Hogan's Alley from Meriden. Their Bike program is expected to start late April or May. Paid Bike Patrol positions are available. Contact Kevin for more information.
- Last year Powder Ridge hosted “meet around the firepit” session where instructors met and exchanged ideas. The general feedback from attendees was that it was a valuable session. Powder Ridge offered to host a similar event again this off-season.

Next meeting will be scheduled at the SOM on April 16. Please get reports submitted.

Adjourned 8:17 PM

Respectively submitted,  
Larry Hyatt