

CT Region NSP Leadership Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 04, 2022
Zoom conference 1840-1942

Patrol Directors:

Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:

Advisors: Peter Bayer (ROA); Andrew Flint (Outdoor Risk Management); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety); Mike Bafuma (Awards)

CT Region Admin: Skip Mudge (RD); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief); Larry Hyatt (Administrative Assistant);

Absent: Jim Tully (Pahquioque); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown); Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge); Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown); Ron Fenner (Southington); Walt Behuniak (Southington); John Segretta (Website/Technology); Bob Cassello (Alumni)

OPEN ITEMS

- Still looking to fill the Historian position.
- As OEC courses finish up, please forward new member achievements to Skip so they can be recognized on the Region website.
- The Snowboard Enhancement Clinic will be held on Sun Feb 6. Tom has seven interested patrollers and would like to add another five. This would enable him to split them into two groups by ability (e.g., intermediate and advanced).
- We are planning to build a database to track patrollers who are Snowboarders, Alpine, Telemarkers, and/or Nordic. Many patrollers may fit into more than one category. This would make it easier to target our communications with respect to specific events. Skip will be meeting with John Segretta to explore ways of collecting this information.
- Gadi checked with Dick Wolf regarding Powder Ridge's new radios. He will reach out to Justin on this. Gadi also has info about programming the P200D, if anyone has questions. Gadi also had some info for Sundown about FirstNet operated by AT&T. FirstNet offered to discuss coverage details. About 600 patrollers nationwide, have enrolled in FirstNet. Question was also raised regarding coverage for Mohawk. Area management would have to initiate discussions with AT&T.
- ORM is still in development. Initial programs are expected to be rolled out between Spring and Summer 2022. Following up on an earlier question regarding assumption of risk (see minutes from the December 15, 2021 Program Advisor meeting), Jonathan Ruhe, CT Region Legal Advisor, assured us that this should not be a concern for patrollers, unless they are acting in a reckless manner.
- The COOPED-UP Task Force is reviewing the Eastern Division guidelines. At this point, we are not expecting any significant changes to the guidelines published in August. [1/13/22 update: the task force is meeting tonight, and we should expect to see updated guidelines shortly.]
- Omicron appears to be hitting younger people more than previous variants. We will monitor this and its impact on our YAPs.
- Masks are to be worn when inside, regardless of vaccination status. Those who are vaccinated can unmask if able to maintain physical distancing while outside. Unvaccinated should be masked at all times.
- Current research indicates that Omicron is typically upper respiratory while Delta is deeper in the

lungs. Those who are fully vaccinated (this includes the booster shot) are much less likely to become severely sick, hospitalized or die.

- Back to basics: hand hygiene, remaining socially distant, and masking remains as important as ever. N95 masks or double masking with cloth & surgical is good. [The division will likely recommend N95, KN95 or KF95 as best practice, followed by a surgical mask if a N/KN/KF 95 is unavailable.]

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE HANDLING OF COVID

- Mohawk – A lot of patrollers are out. They are doing their best to fill voids in shifts. The area is providing a trailer again this season for non-patient patroller use. Plexiglass dividers between cots in treatment area. In treatment area, all patrollers, patients and patient family required to use patrol-supplied masks. Maximum of one family member allowed and must answer COVID questionnaire and take temperature. Ski area is strictly monitoring a 30-minute time limit in the lodge. General public is not required to be masked at this time.
- Pahquioque – This year so far like last year; Boot up in car; Patrol Room has been cleaned and organized; there is a triage tent outside of Patrol Room; staffing so far is okay; restaurant seating by reservation only; people are advised to wear masks but not strictly enforced on hill; masks are required around and in the patrol room; all employees, including patrollers, are required to take the COVID screening questionnaire and do a temperature check before arriving at the ski area. This is done through the Thunder Ridge website.
- Sundown – With two exceptions back to pre-COVID: Patrollers and customers are required to wear masks inside, and as of today, if unvaccinated employees & patrollers must provide a negative test before reporting to work. There is a lockbox in the patrol room for patrollers to drop off COVID documentation. This is for tracking only and is not retained by patrol or management. There are not formal policies for patrol. They follow area policies.
- Southington – Patrollers required to wear masks when patrons are in the treatment area; if patient doesn't have mask, one is offered, but not required; treatment cot spacing is consistent with pre-COVID; tent used last year for triage and minor incidents no longer in use; one person allowed to come in with a patient; no pre-shift screening required; there is a thermometer that some patrollers use, but many do not—use is voluntary.

REGION WEBSITE

- We will be changing over to Google Calendars shortly. [the change was made 1/10/22]. The new calendar will provide additional functionality and save the region about \$50. Skip is meeting with John Segretta tomorrow to discuss the calendar, how the website is currently used by membership and possible improvements to the site.

Will check with Patrol Directors to see when a good time to hold next meeting, maybe in a few weeks. [meeting set for 1830 on Thursday, January 20, 2022]

Adjourned 7:42 PM

Respectively submitted,
Larry Hyatt