

CT Region Spring Officers' Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2020, at 1830



Meeting called to order: 1831

Attendees: Patrol Reps: Walt Behuniak, Ken Joyce, Kenn Kostuk, Michael Lapierre, Justin Lonergan, Michael Smarz. **Region Program Advisors:** Tim Appleton, Peter Bayer, Chuck Boyd, Bob Cassello, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Michael Gajdosik, Austin Hochstrate, Thomas Kim, Don Ludwig, Jenny O'Donnell, Cally Regan, Justin Regan. **Guests:** Jeff Barter, Ron Ellison, Ron Fenner, Becky Mudge, Paula Knight, Rick Knight, Melinda Mingus, Eric Schmidt, Rob Schumann, John Segretta. **Officers:** Liz Fenner, Skip Mudge, Mark Pahmer, Tony Philpin, Sue-Ellen Repeta.

Parliamentarian: Rick Knight agreed to serve as parliamentarian for this evening's meeting.

Remembrance of Past Patrollers: Bob Cassello — In addition to Bob DeVoe, CT RD, Mt. Southington PD, Bill Ellison, former Mohawk PD, Phil Griggs, Ski Sundown, Dawn Pinkowish, Mt. Southington and John Rowell, Ski Sundown, Bob added George Mischke, Powder Ridge to the roster of CT Region patrollers who we have lost in the past year.

Comments from Past Region Director: Bob Cassello — Bob thanked us for our support during his six-years as our Region Director. He will continue to be active at the Division, Region and local levels. He'll be assisting Allan Miller, our newly appointed Eastern Division Alumni Advisor.

Opening Comments: Skip Mudge — Thanked those on the front lines of the pandemic who are putting themselves in danger to serve their communities. We are all better off because of their sacrifices. Please check in with fellow patrollers who may be struggling during these difficult and challenging times. The Awards Banquet will be postponed to a later date. It is important that we honor and recognize the achievements of our fellow patrollers, however, due to the pandemic, the manner in which we do this may be different than it has been in the past. We will keep the region posted. The new RD took office on April 1 and therefore had to vacate his position as Pequot Section Chief. Sue-Ellen Repeta was named Interim Pequot Section Chief for the period of April 1—20, at which time we will hold the Section Chief election. All Patrol Directors were reminded to check their Patrol Rosters to ensure everyone has completed ICS 100. At last check 35 patrollers in the region had not yet completed the course. Many of these were candidates, alumni or students who were out of the region and not actively patrolling. If you have patrollers who are not active, consider removing them from your patrol roster. They can always be added when/if they return. If a new ICS 100 course is needed, an instructor in any discipline can run the course. There are also ICS 200 and 700 courses currently running now through May 31, 2020. These are not required per NSP at this time (they are, however, prerequisites for some courses). Course numbers are: ICS 200 (E202200007) and ICS 700 (E202200008). FEMA certificates should be sent to skip.mudge.nsp@gmail.com. We are currently searching for CT Region Legal Advisor. This individual must be a current NSP member

and an attorney licensed to practice in CT and/or NY. NSP Policies and Procedures 2.6.1.1 through 2.6.1.3 list all of the qualifications and requirements of the position. We are in discussions with one individual who needs approval from his director before accepting the position. Hopefully this will pan out shortly. The new Program Report Templates are a critical tool for the region to manage our resources and to help us provide the right funding to the programs that best meet the needs of our membership. We have been entrusted by our membership to wisely spend/invest their dues. This will help us do that. Each Program Advisor is asked to provide an overview of their course(s), a mission/vision statement, specific and measurable goals for the upcoming season and goals for the prior season as well as their performance to those goals. These are goals set by each individual Program Advisor. Finally, we need to challenge ourselves to consider how each of us can leverage this teleconferencing technology to enable us to not only continue to provide educational services to our membership, but to advance the way we do business. Our current environment is taking us out of our comfort zone and forcing many of us to think outside the box. This may be the catalyst needed to move forward. This applies to program administration as well as patrol and region administration. For instance, we can provide lectures and lead discussions. Instructors can incorporate PowerPoint presentations, polling, breakout rooms, and more. Many skills can be demonstrated (by instructors as well as by individual students). Prior to a clinic, instructors and/or students can meet to discuss transportation issues, equipment requirements, review required paperwork and prerequisites, discuss potential issues (meeting places, weather concerns, Plan B's, etc.) and get final commitments from instructors and students. The list goes on. We will use this to communicate with patrols, Program Advisors and IORs. With the introduction of OEC 6e, there will likely be periodic conference calls among IORs and ITs to discuss teaching methodologies, logistical and educational challenges and solutions associated with teaching a new curriculum in the wake of the pandemic. There may also be periodic conference calls among Patrol Leadership to share concerns and ideas. So, as a region, we need to become familiar with this technology. Try different platforms and share your experiences with all of us.

Pequot Section Chief Election (Pahquioque, Powder Ridge, Southington): Don Ludwig — There were no nominations from the floor. Jeff Barter and Sue-Ellen Repeta each spoke briefly to the group followed by voting by the three Pequot Section Patrol Representatives. The election committee reported that the new Section Chief is Sue-Ellen Repeta effective immediately for a term of two years.

COVID-19 Update: Melinda Mingus — First, COVID-19 is like a big ICS 100 event. Think unified command, resource management, supplies, multi-agency/multi-state involvement. ICS 100 and other ICS courses become even more important if we are to effectively interface with various groups. For those who have SAR experience, you already understand this first hand. The second interesting thing is that some COVID-19 Pts present like and HAPE Pts. Both are hypoxic, with low SaO₂ sats of 88-90. They are not all that dyspneic. They both present with dry cough, chest tightness and changes in Hypoxic Pulmonary Vasoconstriction which leads to ventilation-to-perfusion mismatch and poor gas exchange. This may lead to right to left shunt, reduced blood

flow to the lungs, an increase in hypoxemia. That is why we see the use of vasodilation medications for COVID-19 patients. COVID-19 patients, however, don't have pulmonary edema. We are learning that some of these patients should not be on ventilators. There is still much more we need to learn about this virus and the pathophysiology of the disease. Why do some healthy people contract the disease while others don't? We need to keep the coronavirus and COVID-19 in mind as we approach the ski season. How might this impact us? Will we need significantly more PPE supplies? We will likely have to review and update ski area and patrol procedures with respect to infection control.

OEC 6th Edition Update: Paula Knight — As part of the team to bring OEC 6th edition to life, Paula was able to speak first-hand about the new book. It is available for pre-order now. The book should be ready by May 11 and will ship shortly thereafter. Currently, the team is working on the collaterals (e.g., online material, PowerPoints, instructor resources, tests, all the ancillary stuff). This is a very complicated process and the team has been working diligently for quite some time. July 1 is a key date. All courses beginning on or after July 1 must use OEC 6th edition. One thing on everyone's mind is COVID-19. How will this impact our refreshers? Medical and Instructor teams are working on that issue right now. The rollout will be via a Zoom teleconference. Yes, there are changes to the new curriculum. So, we need to get all of our instructors, ITs, and patrollers up to speed on this before the season starts. Many of our TEs need to be recertified this year. Due to the freeze on all face-to-face clinics, Paula will recommend that the CT TEs are granted a one-year extension. Any questions? Contact Paula.

PROGRAM REPORTS (please refer to the Advisors' Annual Reports for details)

Alumni: Bob Cassello — Thanks to Ski Sundown's General Manager and President, Bob Switzgale and Kenn Kostuk, Patrol Director, for their generous hospitality. They have been hosting the Alumni Day for many years. If anyone is interested in becoming an Alumni Patroller, please contact Bob Cassello.

Avalanche: Chuck Boyd — There are some changes to the program. MTR/Avalanche weekend changed so that a patroller can do classroom (in January) and then finish Level 1 later in January. This has been quite successful. Watch the calendar for dates. ICS 200 and 700 are required for more advanced Avalanche courses. They are highly recommended for all patrollers, especially ICS 200.

Awards: Tim Appleton — Please refer to submitted annual report.

Certified: Justin Regan — Annual report to be submitted. This year's exam was cancelled due to the COVID-19. Certified is evolving into more of a National program. There is an increased focus on the Avalanche module. It now consists of an oral evaluation, followed by a written exam and then the skills portion which is to locate two beacons in five minutes. The program had been evaluating the value of including tailrope skills. The decision has been made that trailrope will not be part of the Certified evaluation. Big focus on recruiting.

Instructor Development: Michael Gajdosik — Refer to submitted report. If anyone is interested in becoming an instructor, or if you would like a course for your patrol, please contact Michael Gajdosik.

Mountain Travel & Rescue: Michael Lapierre — This year, there were seven students in the MTR course, all of whom were CT Region patrollers. We need to continue this. [editorial note: I took the course this past season, and it exceeded my expectations—fun and educational. There were as many instructors as students. All were extremely knowledgeable and articulate instructors with a true passion for this. They truly live this and gladly shared their practical insights with all of us.]

Nordic/Backcountry: Chuck Boyd — Please refer to Michael Lapierre’s Nutmeg Nordic report for details. With lifts closed, Nordic/Backcountry skiing enables us to get outside and enjoy the snow while social distancing ... just need more snow!

OEC/ROA: Peter Bayer — Please refer to Annual Report for details. Thanks to Ken Joyce, Larry Hyatt and Beth Polio who really stepped up and helped. Greg Bruhin and Andrew Flint passed Senior OEC and are now Senior Alpine Patrollers. Peter thanked Tim Appleton, our Senior Training Coordinator (STC), for his incredible work in organizing and administering such a well-run program over the last few years. We have nine new OEC Instructors. Looking forward to OEC 6th edition, with many questions regarding what form the refresher may take given the pandemic. Peter will provide OEC-specific content for our redesigned regional website. One goal is to work with Tim Appleton to find his successor as CT Region STC. Tim’s program is a “well-oiled machine” and he leaves “big boots to fill”. Not an easy task. Another goal is to follow-up on Peter’s research on concussions. The plan is to see what is addressed in OEC 6th edition, perform a gap analysis and present it to program leadership to see if there is a way to enhance our knowledge in such an important topic for our CT Region patrollers.

Safety: Kathy Fitzpatrick — This is Kathy’s first year in the program and she thanked Melinda for her huge help. There were four safety events this past season. She would like to see even more next season. The Eastern Division has purchased a number of tents, and developed a system to enable patrols to borrow these tents. They are highly visible and attract attention. Contact Kathy (Ski Sundown) or the Assistant Safety Advisor, Jenny O’Donnell (Mt. Southington). They will also be providing business cards that have “Know the Code” on one side and recruitment information on the other. Patrols can customize these cards to include specific contact information. Another goal is to recruit a Safety Captain in each patrol. Safety is an on-going effort, not just once a year.

OEC Module of the Senior Program: Tim Appleton — Please refer to the Annual Report for details. Congratulations to Greg Bruhin and Andrew Flint on becoming Senior Alpine Patrollers!

Senior OET: Justin Regan — It rained every day there was a Sr. OET clinic! Had to cancel the OET Instructor Clinic at Mohawk due to rain and unfortunately, it was not possible to reschedule. There were eight Senior OET candidates, including some from other regions. Three candidates passed the skiing skills (100% pass) and 75% passed the toboggan skills. John Henry is now a Senior Alpine Patroller. Still looking to develop and grow the instructor corps. Rob Schumann and Andrew Flint are potential Sr. OET instructors. There are currently four TEs. We need more.

Justin emphasized that this is not just for the pin, but rather an opportunity for all patrollers to improve their skiing/riding skills.

Snowboard: Tom Kim — It was a perfect “bluebird” day for the Snowboard Clinic at Ski Sundown. Ten patrollers and three AASI instructors participated. The focus was on fine-tuning skills with little tweaks here and there. In the afternoon, they were able to run toboggans through the bumps. He sent out a post-event survey and got a 50% return. All who responded rated the clinic 5 out of 5.

Women’s Program: Cally Knight — There were no Women’s events this past season, hopefully next season. All Patroller Schools in the Division had Women’s events, thanks to Jane Williams. Please check the Women’s Facebook Page for updates on new events.

Young Adult Patroller: Sue-Ellen Repeta — Please refer to submitted Annual Report for details. Austin Hochstrate was named the Assistant YAP Advisor. Due to COVID-19, the Eastern Division YAP Seminar at Smugglers Notch was cancelled. The seminar will return to Smuggs next March. They plan to take advantage of Zoom to get the YAPs together throughout the season.

Elections Committee: Don Ludwig — Nothing to report at this time.

PATROL REPORTS (please refer to the Advisors’ Annual Reports for details)

Lakeridge: Randy McKee — Please refer to submitted Annual Report.

Mohawk Mountain: Mike Smarz — Please refer to submitted Annual Report. The new tubing area was very successful. They started with eight lanes and later expanded to ten lanes. There was only one injury, a six-year old with a sore back. He was most likely tired and done for the day.

Nutmeg Nordic: Michael Lapierre — Please refer to submitted Annual Report. Winding Trails was open for about 5-6 days due to limited snowpack. However, the patrol adapted and traveled outside of the region to ski and help run the Eastern Division’s Nordic Fest at McCauley in NY.

Pahquioque: Ken Joyce — The patrol continues to emphasize recruiting: candidates, instructors, and seniors. All candidates are required to complete the Instructor Development course within their first two years. In February, Belleayre hosted a bump clinic that was attended by eight Pahquioque patrollers. This helped generate interest in the Senior Program. Pre-season, they ran a High Ropes Course at Kaufmann Girl Scout Camp that was attended by ten patrollers. These events were a lot of fun and helped to generate interest in taking the Senior Program as a group. Thanks to the region for all the help and support this year.

Powder Ridge: Justin Lonergan — Will be submitting his report shortly. It has been a challenging year. The patrol is currently a not-for-profit organization. They will be reorganizing over the next year to operate under the Division’s taxable structure. He thanked Liz Fenner for all her help in their OEC program. The patrol is experiencing many changes and challenges with many patrollers leaving the patrol and many new patrollers joining.

Mount Southington: Walt Behuniak — The area was open 82 days. Still 100% open right up to the last day of operation. Four new Alpine Patrollers joined the ranks. Plus, one candidate who passed OET and will take OEC when classes start up. There were three cardiac events, one of which required CPR (it was successful). The patrol continues to promote the Senior Program, encouraging patrollers to improve their skills. One of the greatest challenges is to find patrollers who are available Monday-Friday mornings.

Ski Sundown: Kenn Kostuk — Please refer to submitted Annual Report.

Housatonic Section Chief: Tony Philpin — Please refer to submitted Annual Report. Still learning the job. Looking forward to next season, and the Eastern Division Section Chief meeting Tuesday evening (April 21, 2020) via Zoom.

Pequot Section Chief and Region Director: Skip Mudge — Please refer to submitted Annual Reports.

Treasurer's Report and Budget: Liz Fenner — Last season's Budget v. Actual report was submitted and reviewed noting that most programs came in under budget. The YAP funds were also explained. \$2248.55 includes \$835.51 fundraiser from prior Program Advisor, a \$300 donation from the NAVA Ski Club in honor of Bob DeVoe and the proceeds of last season's YAP fundraiser. Most of the 990s have been received. Still waiting on one report. Next season's proposed budget was submitted with \$8900 income, \$9226 expenses and net deficit of \$326. It was proposed that to be fair to all programs and be responsible stewards of the membership's dues, the region would reimburse mileage only for trips that are 80 miles or greater (round trip). Those in attendance concurred that this was acceptable. This will be documented and published. Expense report forms and guidelines will be published on the redesigned website. There was discussion regarding possible unbudgeted expenses due to unforeseen events, such as the need for additional PPE due to a pandemic. These costs would be reimbursable for regional events, such as OEC clinics, but not for local or patrol needs.

Motion by Kenn Kostuk/Walt Behuniak to accept the 2020-2019 Budget as proposed.

CARRIED: 9 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain

Bylaws Proposal: Rick Knight — Three proposals were presented (see the submitted proposals for details)

Proposal 1: Electronic Annual Report Submission (9.2)

APPROVED: 9 Yes (no oppositions or abstentions)

Proposal 2: Teller's Report (6.x)

APPROVED: 9 Yes (no oppositions or abstentions)

Proposal 3: Formatting

APPROVED: 9 Yes (no oppositions or abstentions)

NEW BUSINESS

Website Development: John Segretta — A proof of concept for a website redesign was presented with split screen images of our current page compared to a proposed design. The

new design is more image-oriented to appeal to both visual and textual users. The concept is to be action-oriented and not text-heavy. For instance, the calendar would have large, clickable icons for programs (e.g., OEC, OET, Snowboard, Women's, YAP, etc.) to enable a user to only view events related to a particular program. Of course, a full calendar with all program events could also be viewed. It is also the intent to be able to port this information to a patroller's own personal calendar (many of us live by the calendars on our phone). This is a good time to make the transition, before things begin to ramp up in the fall. Once the design work/structure is set, it is just a matter of adding specific content. Much of this has already been done, but each Program Advisor should review and update as necessary. It is recommended that a few people are given access and responsibility to maintain the content. This is quite easy. Programming knowledge is not necessary, and in many cases, it is just a matter of cut & paste to update. The price is around \$17/month, which is reasonable, and includes the calendar function. Website traffic/usage statistics will be available, so that we can track how the site is used and modify the site as appropriate. It is possible to get this operational next month. It has been challenging to get the user ID and password for our current program so that we can use the same domain name and port it over to Wix. We will have the ability to connect to the Eastern Division website as well as social media, YouTube, etc. Facebook presence is possible. John will reach out to John Laitala, the Eastern Division webmaster.

Meeting adjourned at 2057