

Meeting Minutes—Monday, July 27, 2020
Zoom conference 1900-2100

Attendees:

Patrol Directors: Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Ken Joyce (Pahquioque); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Ron Fenner (Southington); Kenn Kostuk (Sundown); Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps: Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Walt Behuniak (Southington); Training Coordinator: Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge); Medical Advisors: Melinda Mingus (CT Region); Steve Goldblatt (Sundown); Guest: Paula Knight; CT Region Admin: Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Skip Mudge (RD)

ACTION ITEMS

- **Skip**, by August 10: determine interest level of a PD/medical workshop (see COOPED-UP discussion) and set up if needed.
- **Mike Smarz/Eric Schmidt** (or Ken Joyce) by next meeting (8/31): appoint a Safety Captain and notify Safety Team
- **Charlie Epstein/Justin Lonergan**: deliver brochures to Justin Lonergan who will distribute to patrols (see CISM discussion)
- **Charlie Epstein**: investigate the feasibility of developing a video about CISM for patrols
- **Charlie Epstein**: invite Bob Norton to our 8/31 meeting for 10-minute overview
- **All Patrol Directors**: continue work on plans for upcoming season in COVID-19 environment

Administrative Announcements

Website: Please check the website and make sure your patrol information is current and accurate. Photos and other information should be sent to John Segretta or Skip Mudge

CT Region Zoom Account: Available to all: classes, patrol meetings, etc. To reserve/set up a Zoom meeting, check the calendar. If it appears to be open, fill in the reservation form at the bottom of the calendar page. Available on a first come, first served basis.

Open Positions: Posted on region website. We have just filled the position of Awards Advisor (Mike Bafuma) and should be announcing the STC shortly. We are still looking for a regional Historian and Administrative Assistant. A new position is the CT Region ORM Advisor. Eastern Division just filled the divisional position and we are looking for someone to provide leadership at the regional level. All positions are listed on the CT Region website. Contact Skip if you have any questions, or suggestions.

Safety Team

Safety Team (Melinda Mingus): We had a very successful Bike Safety Event at Powder Ridge on Saturday, July 25 that was well attended by visitors and well represented by patrollers. Among those staffing the tent were Melinda Mingus, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Jenny O'Donnell, Rick Knight, Dave Sacchitella (Western Massachusetts Safety Team Advisor), Sue-Ellen Repeta, Fallon Repeta and Skip Mudge. It is Melinda's hope that with the growth of mountain biking, NSP will have mountain bike-specific safety kits available. Powder Ridge has a good system in place for keeping guests and employees safe. Chairs are sprayed with disinfectant at the top. Lodge and food service areas seem to be kept clean. Justin welcomes all patrollers to come up and visit.

During our June meeting, Jenny and Melinda spoke about the importance of designating a Safety Captain at each patrol. Safety is an integral part of what we do ("Service and Safety") and we need to be champions of safety throughout the year. This individual could greatly off-load the Patrol Directors/Assistant Patrol Directors during the season. Patrol Directors were asked to identify someone on their patrol who could fulfill this duty. We have made great progress in this regard:

- Lakeridge: unknown

- Mohawk: Still looking for the right person
- Nutmeg Nordic: Michael Lapierre
- Pahquioque: To be announced shortly (still some convincing to do)
- Powder Ridge: Patrick Cipriano
- Southington: Austin Hochstrate
- Sundown: Steve Goldblatt

CISM (Melinda Mingus and Charlie Epstein): This is a volunteer organization. They fund themselves through their education programs. In Connecticut, there are about 60 professionals that span a number of fields such as EMS, fire, law enforcement, clergy, LPRNs, physicians. Charlie is one of three an International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) Instructors in CT and can be reached at any time, day or night. His team assists in any CISM request in CT, and on occasion they assist in NY and RI if requested. They do offer CISM courses (see listing on their website). Bob Norton, the education director offered to provide us with a 30-minute Zoom presentation. Charlie also extended an offer to visit individual patrols for a 60-90-minute program. He was asked if he could produce a short video that we could play during our on-the-hill refreshers. Perhaps we could put this video on our website for all to view at a convenient time. Bob might be available for our next monthly meeting (August 31) for a short 10-minute presentation to the region's patrol leadership. Charlie will drop off brochures to Justin that he will distribute to our patrols.

The website for ICISF is ICISF.org. They have a link to all CISM teams, listed by state. The phone number for the CT CISM Team is 800-734-2473 (24/7). Their website is ctcism.org. Contact information has been added to the Safety Team page on our website. Charlie also said that he is happy to give us his personal phone number for anyone to call if they have questions (860-841-1200).

OEC (Paula Knight)

JBL now has a new website look. The Navigate program is quite robust and should be well received. Some skills have changed (e.g., Assessment now has five sections: Scene Size-up, Primary Assessment, History Taking, Secondary Assessment and Reassessment. There are no longer separate medical and trauma assessments). Some skills have been dropped (e.g., PSCDR and figure eight). Some skills have been added (e.g., use of pulse-ox, full body vacuum mattress). Some skill sheets seem to be missing from some of the chapters in Navigate. This should be corrected by the end of this week. If errors are found in the textbook, please bring to Paula's attention. J&B will print errata sheets and corrections will be incorporated into the e-Book as well as future printings of the hardcover book. Two key things to remember: (1) All instructors must complete the online instructor rollout course. Failure to do so will result in loss of instructor status and inability to teach. This is consistent with the OEC 4 to 5 transition. (2) Each patrol is running their own refresher course. Patrollers will register for their patrol's refresher course, take the online refresher and send their completion certificate to the course IOR. Workbooks have hyperlinks to additional information. [Workbooks will not be collected this year, as most of the workbook exercises have been incorporated into the online refresher course.]

COOPED-UP (Paula Knight)

We should all be aware of: CDC guidelines, State requirements and Mountain requirements. Areas may be following NSAA guidelines. Many smaller areas may be looking to ski patrol for guidance. COOPED-UP's mission is to create a set of guidelines that we can use/adapt to our own specific needs. Each area should have a committee responsible for reviewing all of this and making recommendations regarding how we will operate this winter. Chuck Allen, who is replacing Dr. Johe as National Medical Advisor, urges us not to wait until winter. Make plans now. Supplies may not last. We should also take a look at our budgets. Who at our ski areas pays for PPE (ski patrol is not the only department requiring PPE, we'll also need PPE for guests and patients)? Sue-Ellen asked her hospital about costs. N95 masks that were \$0.54 to \$0.73 pre-COVID are now selling for \$9.92 per mask! Level 3 masks went from \$0.04 to \$0.66 per mask, and are becoming hard to get. Some hospitals are concerned about the availability of these supplies and are rationing them out carefully.

Melinda mentioned that COVID-19 has a 50% asymptomatic transmission rate. That essentially means we must treat everyone we come in contact with as if they are contagious. We should also consider face shields. Can we design one that would fit over our helmets? These might be a good option on the hill. But would they fog up outside?

It was suggested that it might be helpful to have a workshop for the Patrol Directors with Melinda and Steve.

COVID-19 (Melinda Mingus)

There have been a lot of comparisons between influenza (not a coronavirus), SARS, MERS and COVID-19 (or SARS-CoV-2). Looking at this from a transmissibility perspective, COVID-19 has an R0 (reproduction number) of 2.5, which means that for every person infected, they will infect 2.5 other people. Influenza has an R0 of around 2. Measles, on the other hand, has an R0 of 10-18. Measles is aerosolized. The current consensus is that COVID-19 is spread through droplets (>5 microns). This is why common face masks and social distancing work so well. Common face masks/surgical masks have a prevention rate of about 65-85%. The problem is enclosed spaces and poor ventilation. Think indoor dining, gyms, ski lodges and patrol rooms.

Next meeting: Monday, August 31 at 1900