

**CT Region NSP Leadership Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
Zoom conference 1903-2027**

Patrol Directors: Jim Tully (Pahquioque); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Ron Fenner (Southington); Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic/MTR)

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

CT Region Admin: Skip Mudge (RD); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief); Liz Fenner (Treasurer); Larry Hyatt (Administrative Assistant); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications); John Segretta (Website/Technology); Melinda Mingus (Medical); Rick Knight (Awards)

Guests: Ken Joyce (Pahquioque)

Absent: Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief)

ANOUNCEMENTS

- Agenda initially included an item to review last year, but with no comments will proceed to the 2022-2023 season.
- Skip will shortly be kicking off a Leadership Development Program. Last year nobody besides Skip and Mark Pahmer ran for RD and ARD respectively. So with the goal of increasing interest in Region positions, RD, ARD, Section Chiefs, will start the program and hopefully there will be at least 2 people, and ideally 3-4, interested in each of the positions. Look for draft publication of the training coming out soon.
- Some patrols have been considering electronic accident reporting systems.
 - Pahquioque supports the concept, however the system they had looked at was too expensive.
 - Powder Ridge started using them a few years ago. Their insurance company provided tablets, but they had network issues, so people stopped using them, biggest issues with the written forms is the handwriting.
 - Southington is still interested, and is considering options.
 - Sundown is also interested. One challenge is patroller acceptance. Another concern is of potential liability if the data indicates risks that are not corrected by the ski area or patrol. John Segretta developed a system based upon their current paper accident reports and has offered to provide demos for anyone interested.
 - John Segretta said he would be willing to make a few calls to see how prevalent the use of electronic reports are outside of CT.
 - [note Rick Knight followed up with some research on these issues after the meeting. See attached.]

ANNUAL REPORTS

- Skip asked leadership for permission to post their 2021-22 annual reports in the members only section on the Region website. He will follow up with patrol directors and officers. All future reports will be posted automatically.

MOUNTAIN HOST DUES

- Ski area management at one area was questioning the value received from the region portion of Mountain Host membership dues. Many of the easily identifiable benefits can be attributed to

National: Ski Patrol magazine, purchases through the NSP Online Store, Pro Deals, participation in NSP training/education programs and access to online resources. Discussion revolved around the region's contribution to these benefits. While education/training is generally developed through the national programming, many programs are administered/supported/QA'd by at the regional level and are tailored to the specific needs of participants.

- National does allow individual Divisions or Regions to waive their fees, but the National dues are required.
- The consensus was to leave dues as they are as regional support is required for all programming. This includes their OFC training as well as other courses that do not require OEC as a pre-requisite.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Gadi Bourla asked if there were any questions concerning telecommunications and associated equipment. He asked if AT&T had met with Sundown Management to look at what could be done to improve their reception (for First Net), but it doesn't look like they met. Powder Ridge had had minimal Verizon reception; Verizon came in covered the install of microcell equipment and coverage has been very good since.
- First Net gives first responders priority reception.
- Gadi reviewed radio tips from Dick Woolf, Eastern Division Telecommunication Advisor. He suggested these be shared with all patrollers. These might be posted close to our radios. Justin Lonergan suggested that as the radio batteries have a memory with will slowly degrade battery performance over time, it is good to let the batteries fully discharge once or twice a year to reset battery memory.
- A question was raised about the use of some of the inexpensive radios and whether they have Part 90 Certification. It was noted that some areas restrict their use.
- Effective immediately, Justin Lonergan will be assisting Gadi, assuming the role of Assistant Telecommunication Advisor for the region.

TAX EXEMPT PURCHASES

- Liz Fenner described a new process for making a tax-exempt purchase. Purchases through Amazon and Staples are eligible at this time. We can take advantage of this by purchasing goods through the Eastern Division. Send your order request to Liz who will forward that on to Dallas Coffman, the division's Treasurer who will place the order and have it shipped directly to the recipient. Liz will then reimburse the division and request funds from the patroller/patrol (unless it is an approved regionally budgeted purchase).

REGION AWARDS

- Rick Knight is the new Region Awards Advisor. While most awards aren't handed out until Spring, it is a good idea to start thinking about them now and start doing the prep work.
- National Outstanding Awards start at the region and progress up. Regional Outstanding Award winners are submitted to the division. Division winners are then submitted to National. There are 21 different Outstanding Awards. There were no Eastern Division submissions for 12 of them—almost a guaranteed win! There are a lot of “low hanging fruit” here. Some examples: Bike Host, Bike Patrol, Mountain Host, Nordic/Backcountry Patrol, Patrol Rep, Patroller. A single submission has a great chance of being successful at the Division or even National level. A full list of all Outstanding Awards can be found here: <https://www.nspeast.org/nsp-outstanding-awards.html>
- In addition to the Outstanding Awards, we have Patriot Star, Patroller Achievement, Distinguished Service, Merit Stars, etc.

- Chapter 12 of the NSP Policies and Procedures has a great deal of information regarding all National awards. Go to NSP.org, click on Member Resources, then Governance. Award nomination forms can be found in Forms and Documents (also under Member Resources).
- Rick is happy to provide information, provide strategies, suggest what award might be most appropriate, and provide tips on writing successful award nominations.
- Rick has been working with John Segretta to upload historical awards information to the region website.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jeff Barter is running a fund-raiser at the Refreshers to help with the Region's budget deficit. Tom Kim has obtained a Snowboard that will be raffled off. Jeff is still waiting to hear about skis and possibly helmets and goggles. Jeff has also purchased an outdoor propane heater for the raffle. John Segretta and Kathy Fitzpatrick may be able to get gift cards. Justin Lonergan will check on the possibility of Powder Ridge gift certificates. Tickets will be \$5 or 3 for \$15.
- Jeff asked if anyone uses PVC tubes for toboggan storage. Southington and Powder Ridge responded that they do. Walt Behuniak said that Superior in Plantsville has supplies.

Next meeting is planned to be held jointly with the Advisors on Monday November 7 at 7PM

Adjourned 8:27 PM

Respectively submitted,
Larry Hyatt

From Rick Knight on October 20, 2022 regarding electronic accident reports

Skip

At the meeting I was surprised by the lack of information that the PDs had about the subject. I kept a business card I got at an NSAA meeting, from the owner of 1Risk, one of the three biggest companies in the market and I believe the largest.

I called him and asked some questions based on what types of things I heard from the meeting because I wanted to confirm my understanding of this stuff rather than possibly providing inaccurate info. Following is what I was told. I thought you might want to share this info with the PDs.

Cost of the system

Ski Areas with less than 100,000 skier visits per year	\$2,000 per year
Ski Areas with between 100,000 and 250,000 skier visits per year	\$2,500 per year
Ski Areas with between 250,000 and 500,000 skier visits per year	\$3,000 to \$3,500 per year

I asked if they could mirror Mountain Guard's Incident report form? He stated that they started out doing that but they have expanded so they can now do various supplemental forms, etc. Essentially anything you want to track.

Regarding the Ski Area that felt that if they tracked info and did not act on it their risk might be higher? He stated that 10 to 15 years ago Insurance companies were worried about tracking info but now he feels that if you don't track info you might be more at risk than if you do. He encouraged talking to the insurance company you use to get their opinion.

He did not have any specific recommendations about not having internet access. His reaction was they need to get better technology. Talk to the providers.

I asked how many data entry devices would be needed? He said it depends on how many incidents are being entered at one time. Some small areas have 6 devices others have 12.

I asked what devices he would recommend? He recommends Chrome Books because it is like a tablet but it has a full keyboard which makes things like witness statements much easier to enter. These cost about \$350 each. He stated you can get iPads for about \$400-\$450.

Regarding how many areas are using the system? He stated they have about 175 clients using the system. He believes between 65 and 75 are ski areas.

His contact info follows:

Charles Mickley, Business Relationship Director (he mentioned he is the owner of the business)

elcmickley@1risk.com

Office 717-296-1646

Cell 717-552-1606

1Risk.com

Thanks

Rick