

**CT Region NSP Leadership & Advisors Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday October 16, 2023**  
**Zoom conference 1900-2100**

**Patrol Directors:** Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown); Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Ron Fenner (Southington); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic /MTR); Randy McKee (Lakeridge);

**Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:** Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge)

**CT Region Admin:** Skip Mudge (RD); Mark Pahmer (ARD); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief, YAP); Kenn Kostuk (Housatonic Section Chief); Liz Fenner (Treasurer);

**Advisors:** Peter Bayer (ROA); Berni Fowler (Assistant ROA); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team); Becky Mudge (Sr Program Coordinator); Michael Gajdosik (ID); Rick Knight (Awards); Larry Hyatt (Sr. OEC Training Coordinator, Administrative Assistant); Bob Cassello (Alumni); Steve Goldblatt (Medical/Safety)

**Guests:** Greg Bruhin (ARD elect, 2024-25); Paula Knight (ED Assistant OEC Supervisor)

**Absent:** Walt Behuniak (Southington); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown, Snowboard); Jake Worstell (Pahquioque); Justin Regan (Certified & Sr OET Training Coordinator); Cally Regan (Women's Program); Paul Katz (Snowboard); John Boorjian (Historian); Jonathan Ruhe (Legal); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications); John Segretta (Website/Technology); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche & Nordic/Backcountry); Dan Miller (Elections)

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

- Submit dates for CT Region activities so they can be posted on the calendar. It is OK if location is not yet known or if the dates are tentative.
- The Eastern Division now has a Program Supervisor for the Bike Program, Tim Francis from Genesee Valley.
- David McCoy is looking for videos or photographs for the Snowbound Expo that will be held Nov 3-5 in Boston. The theme is “Spirit of Patrolling”.
- National is charged a 3% credit card processing fee. This will be deducted from the dues reimbursed to the divisions and then to the regions. Our current budget has a \$700 deficit. This would result in a \$1000 deficit for 2023-24 season. Justin had mentioned that he could get a pair of skis to raffle off. Skip will contact him on this. Jeff stated that it is illegal to charge credit card processing fees in CT. Liz will check with Dallas.
- National hosted 3 online calls featuring candidates running for the five open spots on the National Board. Calls are recorded and can be found on the NSP website.
  - Three current Eastern Division Board members are not running. Wendy Aarnio is terming out. Bob Bernado and John Kane have chosen not to run for reelection.
  - The Eastern and Central Divisions are backing five candidates - Joseph “Butch” McQueen (Eastern Division), Deb Endly (Central Division), Liz Dodge (Pacific Northwest Division), Lance Vaughn (Far West Division), Jeff Wille (Rocky Mountain Division).
  - Many Division Directors and Board Members are concerned about the vision of some of the leadership. It is important that we elect board members who will move the organization forward in a manner that will benefit all members.
  - While the division and region highly recommend these five nominees, all patrollers should do their research and cast a vote. This is an important election.
- The CT Region is still looking for an ORM Advisor. Contact Skip Mudge.
- Melanie Muszynski has been appointed the CT Region Assistant Safety Advisor. Melanie had helped with the first CT Region Lady’s Night and Safety Event on International Woman's Day last spring at Ski Sundown, and more recently at the CT Region Safety Team Patroller Stress Awareness Event with Bridges Healthcare in Milford on October 1.
- Some Regional Annual Reports that were due last April have still not been submitted. Skip is requesting that anyone who has not yet done so, to please submit them as soon as possible. This is required by our

region's bylaws.

## PROGRAMS

- Alumni
  - Any patrollers going to Alumni status should inform Bob Cassello. They will need to also fill out an application.
  - An Alumni Day is tentatively scheduled for 02/28/24 at Ski Sundown. They are working on a national Alumni Day in February (maybe the 12<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>) at Mt Snow, more info to follow.
- Nordic
  - MTR I has not been scheduled yet, will probably be held in the Spring.
  - Chuck Boyd went to a National Avalanche program meeting. There are a number of changes going on but details are unknown at this time.
- Awards
  - Rick Knight is willing to help anyone write up awards.
- Elections
  - The Region was ready to go to the new voting software for the elections this Fall. As there was only one nominee for each RD and ARD, elections will not be held so the software won't be used resulting in some savings.
  - Skip will continue to be the RD, with his final term beginning April 1, 2024.
  - Greg Bruhin will take office as the region's ARD on April 1, 2024.
- Medical
  - Two years ago there was a paintball situation that resulted in an injury, resulting in the award of a merit star.
  - The Eastern Division has a medical meeting scheduled for tomorrow.
  - CPR on the hill continues to be a topic of discussion. Because of all the variables involved, protocols will remain mountain specific.
- OEC
  - OEC Refresher planning is in good shape for Camp Sloper in Southington. The use of indoor buildings is possible should the weather be inclement.
  - The plan is to allow 150 patrollers to be refreshed the first Sun (10/22) with the rest of the patrollers going the second Sun (10/29).
  - Program Advisors can forward information about their programs or signups they would like posted at the refreshers to Pete Bayer or Berni Fowler.
  - The YAPs will be selling pizza and water at the refreshers as a fund raiser.
  - Pahquioque, Mohawk, Southington and Sundown are currently running OEC courses. Pahquioque has one candidate still in its course and the final evaluation will take place this Wed.
- Senior
  - Last year, three senior candidates received their Sr status. One more finished up both their OEC and OET certifications but needs two more electives. A few more have completed only OET and are expected to continue with OECMSP this season.
- OECMSP
  - The CT Region started using some of the updated OECMSP (OEC Module of the Senior Program) program components last season and will continue with the updates this year as additional elements are rolled out.
    - Some of the updates include demonstrating a mastery level of OEC skills before the clinics start;

more of a focus on LDP (Leadership, Decision-making, Problem Management); moving away from Appendix G for scenario evaluations; and the ability to offer retest scenarios to candidates during the season.

- There will be an Orientation following each of the OEC refreshers, starting at about 3pm. PDs, potential candidates and TEs have been notified via email. Clinics are expected to start in Nov.
- A TE training clinic is also expected to take place Nov 11.
- ID
  - The new updated online course and student manuals are expected by the end of the year. Instructor skills modules will become available next year, and phased in by discipline.
  - If anyone is interested in taking the ID course, reach out to Mike Gajdosik.
- YAP
  - The Summit will be held in March, location TBD. They are hoping to hold a CT Region event prior to the Summit.
  - Sundown has three YAPs and Southington has a few. Currently there are no other YAPs in the Region. Those with OFC are welcome at the YAP clinics.
- Safety
  - Two events were held in Oct and a Stress Awareness event at Powder Ridge. Stress Awareness training is a focus this season. There is an online course offered through PatrollerSchool.org.
  - On Nov 4, a Warren Miller movie will be presented at the Bushnell where a Safety Event and recruitment will be held.
  - The Safety Tent will be set up two of the three days of the Ski Swap at Sundown.
  - On Dec 2, the Safety Team will be present during the Think Snow event at Lakeridge.
  - These events often generate interest from potential patrollers. Kathy asked who should be the contact person for such inquiries.
    - Sundown – Kathy Fitzpatrick & Jeff Barter
    - Powder Ridge – Mel Muszynski & Kevin Muravnick
    - Southington – Ron Fenner
    - Mohawk – Andrew Flint
    - Pahquioque – Eric Schmidt
    - Nutmeg Nordic – Mike Lapierre
    - Lakeridge – Randy McKee

## **PATROLS**

- The question regarding background checks was posed to each patrol.
- Southington
  - Background checks for patrollers are not done, will talk to the general manager.
  - A new RFID system will be implemented.
  - The new Snow Sports building is about 80% complete. There's the new triple lift in the beginning area along with regrading some of the surface for Terrain Based Learning. Upgrading some of the snow making pipes.
- Lakeridge
  - Will check with management on background checks.
- Mohawk
  - Patrollers are considered employees and every employee must pass a background check, paid

for by the area. (Employees are “rehired” every year.) Criminal checks are done every three years and sex registry checks done every year.

- There have been upgrades to the snowmaking.
- There is an RFID upgrade in the lodge as part of an effort to computerize everything.
- The trailer that was near the patrol room is being replaced by a 15x20 collapsible building.
- Pahquioque
  - No background checks.
  - Nothing new at the area. Have a department manager meeting tomorrow night.
- Powder Ridge
  - No background checks.
  - The area has the Halloween Trail, Winterfest and Black Friday events.
  - The new snowmaking system should be in by late Nov along with new guns and computerized snowmaking.
  - They have a new wifi.
  - They have a Ranger meet and greet, about 8-10 interested people.
- Ski Sundown
  - Background checks are done on everyone paid for by the area.
  - New snowmaking pipes and capacity are being installed enabling up to 225 guns to be run simultaneously.
  - Their OEC class still has 16 candidates. They have 20 additional mountain hosts, so maybe more patrollers down the road.

Next meeting is being planned for Monday November 27 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourned 9:00 PM

Respectively submitted,  
Larry Hyatt