

CT Region NSP Leadership Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
Zoom conference 1830-2015

Patrol Directors: Jim Tully (Pahquioque); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown)

Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps: Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge)

Advisors: Melinda Mingus (Medical); Berni Fowler (Assistant OEC); Bob Cassello (Alumni); Andrew Flint (Outdoor Risk Management); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications)

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

Absent: Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown); Ron Fenner (Southington); Walt Behuniak (Southington); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief); Peter Bayer (ROA); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety); John Segretta (Website/Technology)

OPEN ITEMS

- Two Regional positions are still open (Historian and Assistant Safety Advisor). Don Cirkot is willing to assist the Historian. Ken Joyce found an old video of 1992 Patroller Competition held at Ski Sundown. Patrol Directors were asked to identify patrollers who may be interested in either of these positions.
- Patrol Directors were asked to notify Skip or John Segretta of any candidates who have completed their OET and/or OEC training and when they become Alpine Patrollers (if applicable). These accomplishments are posted on the region website.
- Reminder to patrols not yet registered with National to do so for this year.

ROUNDTABLE ITEMS

- Powder Ridge may have an open spot for a paid patroller for 1 or 2 days a week (maybe even a third day).
- Berni Fowler was appointed as Assistant Regional OEC Administrator working with Peter.
- Fall Refresher
 1. Day One registration could have been improved. The registration/sign-in process was modified for Day Two and it ran much more smoothly (more people assigned to check in; lines and check-in sheets by last name). Day One, we had about 180 patrollers and Day Two was about 120. Other ideas were discussed to improve the Fast Track process and possibly group assignment.
 2. One idea was to even the Day One/Two groups by having patrollers register for the refresher day in advance, with a limit of how many we will accept at each refresher day. This would also allow us to know who is arriving each day, so the registration people would have shorter lists to check on Day One. This would also facilitate group assignment prior to the day of the refresher.

3. Most everyone liked Camp Sloper. Would they feel differently if the weather was not so good? It would be helpful if we could reduce the walking distance between stations.
 4. Many patrollers were pleased that the general session was eliminated.
 5. Kevin Muravnick expressed gratitude for those that covered the Powder Ridge station.
 6. Discussion regarding patrollers who did not refresh. Powder Ridge may run a makeup refresher as some of their patrollers were unable to attend either of the days. One possibility is for patrols to cooperate and run a joint makeup refresher. There are still a number of refreshers in other regions that may be accepting out of region patrollers. We should look at that first. Berni said that there are 12 more refreshers being run over the next 2 weeks in the division.
 7. Peter and Berni will provide a list to each PD of patrollers who did not refresh in CT.
- Jim Tully is the new PD at Pahquioque. Ken Joyce has done an amazing job these past four years, building the patrol and developing future leaders.
 - Andrew Flint has assumed the role of Outdoor Risk Management Advisor.
 - Youth Protection Training – The Region did a great job getting key personnel trained last season. There may be new patrollers in leadership positions—this includes key instructors. If so, they need to take this training. At least one person in attendance at an event with youth (anyone under 18) in attendance must be trained, but it is best to get all trained. Powder Ridge requires all of its patrollers to get trained. If you have questions about the program or who is/isn't trained, contact Skip.
 - Awards – This is the time to begin thinking about awards, with the season and programs starting up. Take note of patrollers who stand out. Feb 21 is the firm date last submission date for all Outstanding award nominations. The Eastern Division website has a lot of info on awards, it lists all categories, as well as instructions for the nomination process. Nomination forms can be downloaded from nspeast.org as well. Many patrollers may not be aware of the Eastern Division Patriot Star (information on the division website, too). This is for anyone who served three or more years in the military. PDs should review their rosters for people deserving of and desiring the Patriot Star.
 - Senior Patroller: There are three Senior classifications, Senior Patroller, Alpine Senior Patroller and Nordic/Backcountry Senior Patroller. There is some confusion regarding the case of an Alpine Patroller who becomes a Senior Patroller (not Alpine Senior Patroller). Prior to attaining Senior classification, this patroller could technically haul sleds. Becoming a Senior Patroller, they “shed” the Alpine designation. Can they still run toboggans at their home patrol? This appears to be a local area decision. For more information regarding the various types of Senior and the requirements to become one, refer to Appendix G (Skills Development Program) of the current Policies and Procedures. This can be downloaded from nsp.org/MemberResources/Governance.
 - There are only two weeks left for the National elections. Review candidate resumes and

position statements. Skip is also willing to share his thoughts on the candidates. In addition to voting for NSP Board positions, there is a question on this year's ballot of whether mountain host or bike hosts should be allowed to vote on National ballots. There are valid points on both sides of this issue. Carefully consider this and talk with other patrollers before voting.

- Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications) sent a note to PDs offering to help with communications and radios. Powder Ridge recently installed repeater and had some questions about the items recommended by NSP. Gadi offered to have address this “off line”.
- Jeff Barter asked if any people were taking advantage of the First Net program. While not using it himself, was wondering if the service would work in the New Hartford area as some cellular services don't work well. First Net can provide additional support for special events or emergencies, but not on an ongoing basis. As part of AT&T's commitment, they cover 76.2% of continental US and 99% of the population.
- COVID-19 Guidelines – The last set of guidelines were intended for the Summer and Fall Refresher programs. Currently in a “wait and see” mode regarding the upcoming winter season.
 - Powder Ridge – surgical masks will be required for patient and patrollers when doing patient contact.
 - Mohawk – Staying with State Guidelines; limiting access to patrol room; all wear masks when in patient contact.
 - Thunder Ridge/Pahquioque – still waiting on State.
 - Southington – area still doing online sales; probably ghost lines for lifts; it appears that COVID-19 actually invigorated local skiing last year.
- Kevin Muravnick said that Powder Ridge is doing OEC evals on 12/18 and looking for help. If other areas have evals on other dates let him know if help is needed.
- Justin Lonergan said next Friday, on 11/26 there will be a Comedy Night fund raiser if anyone is interested. Justin also asked a question as to what other areas ask their patrollers to do in addition to the regular patroller tasks of first responding and other safety related tasks. At Powder Ridge, patrollers are asked to work in rental area, check tickets, manage lift lines, help with helmet enforcement. At Mohawk, patrollers may help with lift lines but nothing inside. At Thunder Ridge, nothing beyond typical ski patrol duties. At Sundown, the patrol is a separate entity and patrollers don't do the jobs of other paid employees. At Southington, just regular patrol tasks. The consensus is that patrolling requires specialized training and patrollers shouldn't be doing tasks that might take them away from responding to emergencies.

Next meeting has been set for Tuesday January 4, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Adjourned 8:15 PM

Respectively submitted,
Larry Hyatt