

CT Region Program Advisor Meeting
Meeting Minutes—Thursday, October 08, 2020
Zoom conference 1830-2035

Attendees

Advisors: Peter Bayer (ROA); Justin Regan (Certified & Sr OET Advisor); Cally Regan (Woman's Program); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team Advisor); Tom Kim (Snowboard Advisor); Paul Katz (Assistant Snowboard Advisor); Sue-Ellen Repeta (YAP Advisor & Pequot Section Chief); Austin Hochstrate (Assistant YAP Advisor); Larry Hyatt (Sr OEC Advisor)

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

Absent: Michael Lapierre (MTR Advisor); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche & Nordic/Backcountry Advisor); Jenny O'Donnell (Assistant Safety Team Advisor); Mike Bafuma (Awards Advisor); Michael Gajdosik (ID Advisor)

Open Items

- Please keep program pages updated on the region's website.
- YAP Everyday Heroes meeting is a week from today; we hope to have the link on the webpage, will also try to have the links from previous YAP broadcasts.
- Mike Bafuma (not in attendance) has placed the Awards Banquet video link on the website.
- The Election Committee is working on providing electronic voting for the next regional election; cost may be only \$50.
- Senior program is being restructured, from an organizational aspect. This will have no direct effect upon program delivery, but will improve the way we communicate the process to candidates, how we track and manage each candidate's progress through the program and notify national (and others) of program completion.
- Chris Chmura, a Southington patroller and nurse educator at Yale-New Haven Hospital contacted us regarding excess ski goggles that were donated for use as PPE through the Goggles for Docs program. The hospital does not need them, and offered them to the region. There are enough for one pair for each of our patrollers. We hope to have them distributed to each patrol within the next few weeks.
- Program-specific guidelines for COVID-19 environment are available for OEC, MTR, Nordic / Backcountry, and Avalanche are available and have been posted on the national and region websites.
- The CT Ski Area Association (CSAA) (Mohawk, Powder Ridge, Southington, Sundown) has released its Operating Guidelines for this year and is posted on the region as well as individual ski area websites. Thunder Ridge is operating under New York guidelines. Winding Trails was not part of the CSAA, they will be contacted to get information.
- Kathy Fitzpatrick said the Safety Team is ready to order a frame for the tent. The tent will be available safety events as well as other region events. One pair of goggles (very small and unscientific test) were cleaned with alcohol with no evident issues. This may not be the case for all types or for repeated applications. It might be more prudent to put them in a paper bag for a while if suspected COVID-19 contamination. With the additional goggles provided by YNH, it might be more feasible to have one pair for skiing/boarding and one for PPE use. Safety Event at Powder Ridge went well. Kathy wanted to thank Austin Hochstrate for his help.

- It is important for program advisors, IORs and other key personnel to complete their Youth Protection training. Completion certificates must be sent to Skip. Those interested in taking the Armatus Praesidium course must contact memberrecords@nsp.org. They will contact the training company who will send the login information to the patroller. There are seven modules, three of which are required: Meet Sam, Duty to Report Mandated Reporter, Preventing Sexual Activity Between Adolescents. The NSP training requirements can be found in Chapter 13 of the NSP Policy & Procedures. While the training isn't currently mandatory for all patrollers at this time, eventually the training could be mandatory for all. The training is good for three years.

Roundtable Discussion

- **Snowboard** – Paul Katz said the snowboard enhancements are expected to run as in the past. He contacted Jim O'Conner, ED OET Supervisor who does not anticipate any significant concerns beyond what has been addressed by NSP. Expect to see a program-specific guidance document for OET in the near future. Tom Kim had nothing to report new on the program. He mentioned Jay who ran the program last year is looking forward to running it again this year. Jay now runs the snowboard school at Southington.
- **Senior OET** – Justin Regan said there are many unknowns at this time. Justin received notice from Jon Wilson (ED Certified Supervisor) that Killington has canceled all meetings and events until March, 2021. Heard that SVT RD has canceled all extracurricular activities (e.g., Senior, Certified, etc). Max “pod” size for all OET programs is six, which should not be an issue for Sr. OET. May have to stay in state. Fortunately, Sundown does have Senior-rated terrain. The Certified Exam may still be held, but pre-tests and patroller schools will be canceled. Uncertain about local ski areas welcoming clinics, as we don't generate revenue, but add to the “skier count” on the hill. May have to split the group and run half on Saturday, half on Sunday, or perhaps run clinics on weekday evenings. Another concern is instructor cert/recert clinics. Last year, they were given a bye due to rain. Will we be able to do the same this year? T/E's can run instructor clinics at local areas, so we don't need a single (large) regional clinic. Main focus will be on new instructor clinics and Toboggan Refreshers. Had about seven instructor candidates from last year that need the course. May have more for this season. ED OET only accepts newly approved instructors up until early/mid-December. Anyone after that does not become an OETI until the following year.
- **ROA** – Peter Bayer said that all instructors will take an online OEC 6 rollout as well as the online refresher that everyone must complete. All instructors must be evaluated at least once every three years. For those who are at the end of their three-year cycle, do they get an extra year's grace? He will check with Paula Knight on that. Some patrols are running OEC classes this Fall and are very diligent in keeping everyone safe.
- **Woman's Program** – Cally Regan said the Woman's OET also has concerns for the upcoming season similar to the rest of OET programs. She has been working with Rebecca Moran-Rubin to possibly run the program this year.
- **Senior OEC** – Larry Hyatt has contacted Tim Appleton for turnover, Tim will provide info but is very busy at this time. Similar to the other programs many unknowns at this time especially with the OEC requirements of working physically close with patients and other helpers. While some clinics may be doable with limitations, holding evaluations usually require many people some who travel significant distances. A question was raised on use of mannequins, while some of the personal contact would be reduced, there could be loss of realism, also mannequins would require regular cleaning. Peter said he is going to set up a meeting with Paula Knight, Skip, Larry and himself to review some options for this year.

- **YAP** – Sue Ellen Repeta said last evening was the first YAP meeting. Due to COVID-19, we had to pull out of last year’s YAP Seminar at Smuggler’s Notch, at the last minute. Plans are to hold the seminar at Smuggs. Contracts still need to be signed, and Smuggs will be requiring a definite “go/no go” cut-off date. Vail has bought out a number of areas in PA and NY; Vail requires patrollers to be 18 years old, or older. As a result, we have about 20 YAPs who do not have a patrol. There is an effort to find new patrols for these displaced patrollers, possibly patrols can add them to their rosters, so that they can maintain a patrol affiliation. VT now has travel bans based upon the county of residence. These are updated every Tuesday. As an example, someone living in Hartford County (as of this meeting) would have to quarantine 14 days if travelling to VT. She will send a link to this [<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>, posted on our website]. Currently, there are 11 YAPs in the region; Thunder Ridge is not included in this count, and we don’t know if NY patrollers would be impacted by travel restrictions between CT and NY. Considering the option of having YAP advisors/instructors travel to local areas instead of region-wide clinics. It is particularly important for those involved with the YAP program (instructors and chaperones) to take the Youth Protection training. Craig and Chris would like everyone trained by Dec 1, 2020. May be looking to “virtual party” if this year’s seminar is cancelled.
- **Safety Team** – Kathy Fitzpatrick said the Eastern Division Safety Team has an Instagram; Austin Hochstrate has volunteered to set up and run an Instagram page for the CT Region Safety Team. Regarding chairlifts, current guidelines (CSAA) state that “To maintain physical distancing on our chairlifts and surface lifts, we will only be seating related parties (guests skiing or riding together) or two singles on opposite sides of a three-person lift. We will also accommodate for any guest who prefers to use a lift alone.” It is likely that there will be exceptions for adaptive athletes and their guides.

Next meeting Wed 11/18/20 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourned 8:35 PM

Respectively submitted,
Larry Hyatt