

**CT Region NSP Leadership & Advisors Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday August 28, 2023**  
**Zoom conference 1905-2100**



**Patrol Directors:** Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown); Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge)

**Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:** Walt Behuniak (Southington); 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)

**Advisors:** Berni Fowler (Assistant ROA); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team); Becky Mudge (Sr Program Coordinator); Justin Regan (Certified & Sr OET Training Coordinator); Cally Regan (Women's Program); Paul Katz (Snowboard), Michael Gajdosik (ID); Rick Knight (Awards); Larry Hyatt (Sr. OEC Training Coordinator, Administrative Assistant); Bob Cassello (Alumni); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications); Steve Goldblatt (Medical/Safety); Dan Miller (Elections)

**Guests:**

**Absent:** Ron Fenner (Southington); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic /MTR); Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown, Snowboard); Jake Worstell (Pahquioque); Liz Fenner (Treasurer); Peter Bayer (ROA); John Boorjian (Historian); Jonathan Ruhe (Legal); John Segretta (Website/Technology); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche & Nordic/Backcountry);

**REGIONAL, DIVISION AND NATIONAL ITEMS**

- Ski Sundown has two stretchers available, free of charge, if anyone is interested. They work fine, but if raised up may feel a bit unstable. Will transport anywhere in region for free. If interested contact Jeff Barter or Kenn Kostuk.
- Notify Skip of event dates for the Region calendar. RD/ARD election dates, OEC Refreshers and some of the local areas' OEC evaluation dates (which may change) are on the calendar at this time.
- RD and ARD elections are scheduled for this fall. Nominations are open until 9/17. Voting will be held from 10/1 through midnight 10/29 (last OEC Refresher date). Requirements are listed on the website. Kathy Fitzpatrick presented some info on Election Runner, the app that will be used for the online voting. The app will cost \$75, allows up to 750 voters and is paid for through the end of October. All Region patrollers, including Alumni, should make sure that their profiles are up to date and correct as the list of eligible voters will come from the NSP website database. Candidates are not eligible to vote. Kathy Fitzpatrick will send the roster of listed eligible people to Bob Cassello so he can verify Alumni. Berni Fowler will follow up with Peter Bayer to make sure email goes out to the Region with the information.
- Region still looking for an ORM Advisor.
- New NSP website.
  - The Trail Sweep sent out today clarified the three MMS development phases.
  - The system upgrade is still in process. Functionality should improve over the next month or so. We are gathering information regarding report access. Send comments to Skip who will compile the information and pass it along.
- The Region Annual Reports were due last Spring. The deadline was pushed back at that time. However, that did not change the requirement for all patrol reps, region officers and advisors to submit annual reports. If you haven't already done so, please submit to Skip. They will be posted on the region website this fall.
- Dates
  - As mentioned earlier, nominations for the upcoming elections will close 9/17. Voting will take place 10/1 – 10/29. The app that will be used for managing the voting is only paid for through the end of October. Closing the ballots on the 29<sup>th</sup> will give the committee a couple of days to evaluate the votes.

- The OEC Instructor Refresher will be held at Pahquioque on 9/10; doors open at 7:30 AM. It will be held outside unless there is inclement weather in which case we will move inside.
- The two OEC Refreshers will be held on 10/22 and 10/29. The registration for them will be similar to what was done last year. NSP has said that it is not required to complete this online portion prior to registering for the hands-on, as it was in the past. Local patrols, however, can make this as a requirement. NSP will create a report that will list who has/has not completed refresher components (online and in-person). PDs will have access to this report. Berni Fowler will send out information to the Region patrollers of how to register for the Refresher.
- Rick Knight said that awards do not have to be worked on just once a year. Rick has contacted PDs encouraging them to identify patrollers worthy of receiving awards. Others should also consider those that are deserving. Some awards such as DSAs and National Appointments require a lot of preparation, so it is good to get started on them. Anyone that wants to know about awards or what might be an appropriate award should contact Rick for support.

## PROGRAMS

- Alumni Day is scheduled for Tuesday 2/27/24 at Ski Sundown. If another area wants to host, they will look at possibly moving the location. But it is noted that Ski Sundown has been a good host, they are very helpful, easy to work with and offer a number of benefits.
- Medical
  - Melinda Mingus is in Vermont so Steve Goldblatt has assumed the Medical Advisor role.
  - They are continuing to look at the topic of performing CPR on the hill. We should adhere to the training program in which we have been certified (e.g., AHA, ARC, etc.) to minimize potential legal liability.
- ID
  - No updates from National.
  - If anyone is interested in taking the course, reach out to Mike Gajdosik.
- Certified
  - Certified testing scheduled for weekend of 3/14-17. Rebecca Moran-Rubin is getting close to obtaining her cert as she has 4 modules left. Cally Regan expects to do the pretest this coming year.
- Senior OET
  - Working on dates for the upcoming season.
- OEC
  - OEC Refreshers were previously talked about.
  - Powder Ridge is not running an OEC class this year but may have one person do one-on-one training.
- Safety
  - Kathy Fitzpatrick said that a Safety Day was held at Powder Ridge during the Bike season. 2 events were rained out at Ski Sundown. Looking forward to having more Safety Days this upcoming season.
  - Kathy attended a recent Patroller School and picked up a lot of valuable knowledge, she also plans to attend other training sessions.
  - A new Patroller Stress Awareness course is now available on PatrollerSchool.org.
- Senior OEC
  - It is expected that the new Sr OEC Module program will be used this next upcoming season. NSP has not yet released updated training pieces or a new training guide, but the plan is to use the Beta

Test Track information (released and used for the evaluation last Winter) and material discussed at the Eastern Division Spring Officers' Meeting. The current thought is to complete the candidate paperwork, skill guides and scenario writeups during the earlier part of Fall so that when the program used to normally start in November, all of that material will be completed, and focus can be on doing the clinics. The plan is also to start reaching out to patrols and potential candidates soon.

- Telecommunications
  - Gadi Bourla reminded people that they should review their equipment now which would give patrols ample time to fix issues prior to the start of the season. Contact Gadi if there are questions.
  - The issues with Automated 911 calls initiated from peoples' individual watches or phones has been improved upon. But it is still advisable that patrols communicate about potential issues with the local EMS providers.
  - Kenn Kostuk has gone through a recent equipment order and suggests placing orders early, as there are still supply chain issues.
- Women's Program
  - There will be a number of Women's events at the upcoming Patroller Schools. There are also plans to host some local events in the Region this upcoming season. Cally Regan is waiting for other programs to schedule their events and then find available dates. The Ski Sundown marketing Manager had contacted Kathy about hosting another event on International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- YAP
  - The Spring YAP Summit is scheduled for March 8-10. The CT joint program with WMASS is scheduled for the weekend before, but as that is normally the Sr OET evaluation, coordination will be done with Justin Regan.
  - There are 3 new YAPs (Ski Sundown) expected in the Region this upcoming season. There are also a few that have "graduated" out.

## PATROLS

- Pahquioque
  - Down to 1 candidate in the OEC class, maybe another.
  - Looking forward to hosting and seeing OEC instructors on 9/10.
- Powder Ridge
  - No OEC class this year but there is 1 candidate (an EMT) that is doing one-on-one training. They are pushing for a strong OFC group this year where they hope some will move to OEC next year. For various reasons they did lose some patrollers from this past year.
  - Their Bike Patrol is going strong with Patrick and Darin working full time.
  - They are holding a night-time lift evac training exercise on 9/25 without lights. They feel this training is necessary as they're having weekend events with full chairlifts.
  - They are expecting new snow making equipment this Fall. The DemacLenko SnowPro is capable of making snow at temperatures above freezing. They expect to use it first on the tubing area and one small park setting. This is the same type of system that Ski Ward recently obtained.
- Southington
  - The OEC class does not have any local candidates, there are two from Butternut.
  - There is a new lift in the beginners' area.
  - There is a new Snow Sports building which is replacing the old ski school building.

- Ski Sundown
  - Inviting everyone to their Ski Swap on weekend of 11/3-5.
  - Their OEC class has 16 candidates of which 3 are YAPs, also 7 of the candidates were Mountain Hosts last year. The host program has grown from 8 to 32.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A question was raised on the status of this year's budget. Last year a raffle was held at the OEC Refreshers to make up for the deficit. Question is – is there a deficit this year such that another raffle should be held? The deficit this year is currently at about \$700 and Skip doesn't feel it necessary at this time. Jeff Barter has 2 sets of goggles that were donated after the Refresher last year and if a raffle will not be held this year, he will donate them to the YAP program.

Next meeting is being planned for Monday October 16 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourned 9:00 PM

Respectively submitted,

Larry Hyatt