

CT Region NSP Leadership & Advisors Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 07, 2024
Zoom conference 1900-2035



Patrol Directors: Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge)

Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:

CT Region Admin: Skip Mudge (RD); Mark Pahmer (ARD)

Advisors: Peter Bayer (ROA); Berni Fowler (Assistant ROA); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team); Melanie Muszynski (Assistant Safety Team); Michael Gajdosik (ID); Rick Knight (Awards); Larry Hyatt (Sr. OEC Training Coordinator, Administrative Assistant); Bob Cassello (Alumni); Neil Glagovich (Sr Program Coordinator); Steve Goldblatt (Medical, Safety); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche & Nordic/Backcountry)

Guests: Ken Joyce; Greg Bruhin

Absent: Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Ron Fenner (Southington); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic, MTR); Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Walt Behuniak (Southington); Jake Worstell (Pahquioque); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown, Snowboard); Kenn Kostuk (Housatonic Section Chief); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief, YAP); Liz Fenner (Treasurer); Justin Regan (Certified, Sr OET Training Coordinator); Cally Regan (Women's Program); Paul Katz (Snowboard); John Boorjian (Historian); Jonathan Ruhe (Legal); John Segretta (Website, Technology); Roger DelGiorno (Bike Advisor); Dan Miller (Elections)

REGIONAL, DIVISION AND NATIONAL ITEMS

- Proposed Revision to Bylaws
 - Patrol Reps and Region Officers were asked to review the proposed revisions to our region bylaws. This will be voted upon at our region Spring Officers' Meeting.
- Assignment of OEC IORs
 - Peter will be reaching out to PDs regarding assignment of IORs. He would like to be part of the conversation prior to final selection of IORs, as his perspective of IOR candidates may be helpful to Patrol Directors.
- Spring OEC Classes
 - Powder Ridge has a growing Bike Patrol and is considering a Spring OEC class especially for those that might be interested in Bike Patrol only. Pahquioque starts their OEC classes in April and offered to provide information to Powder Ridge.
 - If candidates become NSPS members prior to July 1, they must pay dues for the year they join (in this case 2024) and then again for the following year (2025). If, however, a candidate joins on or after 2024, their membership dues will be for the remainder of the current year (e.g., 2024) plus the following year (e.g., 2025).
- Accident at Titus Mountain
 - A fatal lift accident of a ski patroller took place at Titus Mountain in New York. The veteran patroller's backpack became snagged on the chair as he was attempting to disembark. He went around the bullwheel and failed to trip the safety. The lift operator stopped the lift, but the chair traveled beyond the lift ramp area and the patroller was left dangling above the ground. By the time rescuers were able to reach the patroller, he had died.

- The Division has reached out to the family and have passed on their condolences, which was thought to have been appreciated.
- The Safety Team may release a statement once the official report is released. Kathy reminded us of the need to pay attention to ourselves and our fellow patrollers.
- Skip will look into sending a card to the family on behalf of the CT Region.
- The CT Region Spring Officers' Meeting will be on Tuesday April 16 6:00PM in the Mountain Room at Southington. During the meeting, a vote will be held for Pequot Section Chief (SC). The Pequot Section includes Pahquioque, Powder Ridge and Southington. Sue-Ellen Repeta will be running for re-election (and would be her final term). Additional information will be on the website.
- Continuing Education
 - The Region would like to improve its promotion of Continuing Education programs such as MTR, Avalanche, Enhancements, etc. Some thoughts:
 - Personal conversations are very powerful.
 - Attend each area's on-the-hill refresher to present program overviews.
 - Provide options to request information on programs to the Fall Refresher registration.
 - Improve the visibility of program signups at the OEC Refreshers, and flyers, spokespersons, and QR codes to learn more about these programs. Use bullhorn prior to moving to first station, to remind patrollers.
 - Two or so e-blasts to promote programs.
 - Posters for patrol rooms (and top shacks) with QR codes directing the patroller to our website for more information.
 - Efforts should drive traffic to the website for details.
 - Mention educational opportunities during OEC and OFC classes.
 - Promote senior electives.
- Website
 - Program Advisors should review the website and make sure the information is correct and up to date. Send any updates to Skip or John Segretta.
 - Please send information regarding candidate achievements (OEC, OET completion, Patroller or Alpine Patroller status, etc.) <https://www.ctnsp.org/new-patrollers>
 - Would like to get patrollers use to going to the website for information.

PROGRAMS

- Snowboard
 - The Snowboard Clinic was held at Sundown on February 4. There were boarders from Mohawk, Powder Ridge and Southington. Feedback indicated a very successful event.
- Sr OET
 - Mid-way through the program, there remaining events will be at Catamount: February 11 clinic, February 25 pre-test, and March 3 test.
- Certified
 - Test will be March 14-17 at Sugarbush. Rebecca Moran is in good shape to finish this year. Justin encouraged everyone to attend and support her.
- OEC
 - Make up refreshers were held at Sundown (January 12) and Powder Ridge. 3 patrollers were able to complete their refreshers at each location.

- There were some issues with online documentation listing some patrollers as missing refresher items and being delinquent. Peter is working on resolving this.
- ID
 - The new hybrid course is now available on the Center for Learning. The new textbook is in the final stages of development. Looking for better ways to access the mentoring guide and other documents.
 - There are a growing number of patrollers in Region looking for the in-person portion.
- Alumni
 - The CT Region Alumni Day is scheduled for 0830 on February 27 at Ski Sundown. The cost is \$12 for tickets and lunch.
 - The Eastern Division Alumni Day is open to all patrollers (Alumni and active) at Mt Snow on Feb 11-16. Contact Bob Cassello for details and agenda.
- Safety
 - The Alumni Day at Mt Snow will have a Safety Tent on Tues the 13th with the theme of Stress Awareness.
 - Ladies Day will be held at Sundown on March 8 (same as Interational Woman’s Day) starting at 3:00PM and will be run similar to last year. Cally will run a ski skills for those interested. Looking for items like gift cards for the silent auction. A flier about the program will be going out soon.
 - All CT Region patrollers are encouraged to take the Stress Injury course. The online course should take about 70 minutes. Go to PatrollerSchool.org.
 - Eric Schmidt said that following a stressful incident, a patroller visited the Safety page on the region website and found valuable information and guidance that the patroller found very helpful.
 - All areas in the Region are hosting a safety event this month.
 - All PDs received emails about the new program – “GRIT”, Getting Resilient Intentionally Together.
 - Another theme “Take A Break” is being presented to remind skiers to take a break when tired. Studies have shown times of injuries often occur just before lunch and during late afternoon.
- Avalanche, MTR and Nordic
 - Just completed division Avy course at Smuggs (full); L2 Avy coming up 2/29 - 3/3 at Whiteface (one open spot); L1 Avy 3/7 – 9 at Tucks (one – two open spots).
 - Working on M1L1 Avalanche (Senior Elective), online with one Zoom component.
 - Only 3 people signed up for the MTR 1 class on February 17 – 18 at Winding Trails. The class will be cancelled because a minimum of 6 was needed to run the class.
 - This year there have only been 3 days of nordic skiing at Winding Hills. They have developed a relationship with Notchview in MA to train there (always seem to have snow).
- OECMSP
 - Congratulations to all 5 candidates who took and passed the upgraded program Final Evals on Sunday February 4 at Southington. Also thanks to all of the people that came out to help with the evals and especially to those that helped with the clinics all season. The program used the new updates which emphasizes the areas of Leadership, Decision Making and Problem Management. The 5 successful candidates were Kathy Fitzpatrick (who is on the zoom and from Sundown), Sherri Cormier and John Ozolins from Mohawk, Wayne Gleason and Steve Patchkofsky from Southington.
 - The plan for next season is to start the updated program during the end of the Summer / early Fall

with paperwork, doing the written scenarios and getting skill signoffs, all pretty much completed by about the time of the Fall OEC Refreshers. Then once the in-person sessions start, likely in November, the focus will be on the scenarios. With the earlier start, communications should start this Spring and continue through the Summer.

- Awards
 - Reminder for people to get their nominations for Outstanding Division awards to Rick as soon as possible to meet the division deadline of March 1. It helps to get other awards in soon as well.
- Senior
 - Trying to get to people who completed both their OEC and OET programs to verify their items so their applications can be completed.
- YAP
 - The Summit will be held at Smuggs on the weekend of March 8-10. The cutoff for registration is February 9, so make sure people get their registrations in. There are also scholarships available.
- Medical
 - Steve is requesting information regarding any incidents in the Region that involved the use of Narcan or unique emergency transports. The information obtained could be useful in creating guidelines.
 - Pass on to Steve the contact information of any physician partners, mostly that may work in the patrol rooms.
- Telecommunications
 - No news from National. Looking to get the frequencies used at Sundown, there should be a number available and some known to National.

Next meeting will be Wednesday March 20 at 7:00PM.

Adjourned 8:35 PM

Respectively submitted,
Larry Hyatt