



NATIONAL SKI PATROL EASTERN SIERRA REGION

Squaw Valley Public Utility District, CA

Minutes for Saturday, February 28, 2015 9:00 am

Lunch served at a convenient time in the meeting

In attendance, proxies

Al Mortenson (PR, Alpine Meadows), Drew Oliphant (PR, Diamond Peak), Tom Sherry, (member, Northstar proxy), Tim Stephens (Asst. PR, Heavenly, proxy), Loretta O'Brien (PR, Homewood), Dore Bietz (PR, Kirkwood), Todd Sprague (PR, Sierra at Tahoe), Brian Berry (PR, Squaw Valley), Tom Werner, (Asst. PR, Squaw), Jerry Milana (PR, Tahoe Donner Nordic), Bill Gibson (FWD Director), Nancy Stromswold (ESR Director, Homewood), Katie DuMont (Asst. ESR Director, Sierra at Tahoe), Tim O'Brien (NSP Safety Committee, Squaw), Dave Pinsky (Senior Advisor, Squaw), David Stepner (OEC Advisor, Squaw), Loretta Barranger (Equipment Advisor, Northstar), Josh Masur (Legal Advisor, Alpine Meadows)

Additions to Agenda under New Business: none

Motion to Accept Agenda: Oliphant motion, Stephens 2nd; passed

Minutes from November 22, 2014 meeting previously approved and are posted to ESR website

gray = not in attendance; report sent in and posted below

Patrol Representative Reports

Alpine Meadows: Al Mortenson 20" of new snow. Challenges have been poor snow conditions but volunteers have stepped up. New company logo the same for Alpine and Squaw. Successes include good relationship with management. Retention is a big focus; informal mentoring, family and friends of patrollers are good recruits. Ski shows do not give good recruits: they usually cannot ski the required terrain. Ideal number of active patrollers is 45; 4 candidates+1 transfer this year.

Diamond Peak: Drew Oliphant Still open. More skier visits in December and January than in previous years. Has been difficult recently getting visitors on top of mountain due to poor conditions Master plan for new summer activities (zip line, alpine slide), new on mountain restaurant, move two chairs, replace fixed grip with high speed and add a backside lift. New recruiting banner is needed and cards to hand to prospective candidates. Retention issues are ageing patrollers, using patrol as a resume builder and then leaving, and work responsibilities and travel. 2nd year candidate finished training this year. Hosting Special Olympics on March 12-13; might need assistance from other regional patrols.

Northstar: Tom Sherry, member, proxy Skier visits are good thus far this season. Instructor evaluation by Paid staff to establish synergy and work through differences. Ski school working with patroller's skiing ability to achieve a level 8. No candidate training this year, but usually get 30+ inquiries annually; will take 10-15 candidates annually. Expect to lose a few with changes, but Northstar will find alternative to Alpine Patroller. March 22 is the Mid-Winter OEC exam at Northstar Fire House; Renee Cameto is the contact. Tough Mudder will be at Northstar in June; Mike Fanelli is the contact for that event.

Heavenly Patrol: Tim Stephens, Asst. PR, proxy Like most resorts, snowmaking has saved the season but no tree skiing. New Paid Director has initiated a team system in which patrollers work and train as smaller groups. Some have left, but well received by most. Skill check list for all patrollers same as paid staff so that all are working from same benchmark. ICS online class required. Communication from PR, Paid Director and management has greatly improved. Website inquiries about 40 to 80 per year. No candidates this year but focusing on current patroller skills. Next year's candidates will shadow and ski test this season.

Homewood: Loretta O'Brien Closed end of January, reopened for President's weekend and Ski/Skate week; now closed again. Challenges are training candidates with current conditions and maintaining skill with current conditions. Success was a robust toboggan refresher for all patrollers while open. Retainment is difficult if current conditions continue, limited operations impact patrollers staying. We had 6 prospective candidates but are unable to ski check them. Area plans more snow making this summer and beginning to build in 2016.

Kirkwood: Dore Bietz This is year 4 for the patrol. There has not been and currently does not have volunteer patrollers at Kirkwood, but the patrol is currently operating as a registration unit for the paid staff who are OEC certified. Dore gave a history of the previous three years and discussed the issues, successes, and goals for the patrol. "Dual Credit" for days patrolled at Kirkwood is one possibility for patrollers who are Secondary registered with Kirkwood.

Reno/Mt. Rose Jeff Redmond Unable to attend; no report submitted.

Sierra at Tahoe: Todd Sprague Successes include better communication with management after asking to be included on management's mailing list. Improving relations with paid staff; more cross training together. Challenges include the need for more snow making. 5 candidates a year is an annual goal. Incentive offered to patrol the most days over the holidays was a success. APP Clinic this past week was very successful, but not many NSP volunteer attendees. Paid staff receives and extra \$0.25 per hour if OEC certified and an additional \$1.00 per hour if Certified. Host Program has 75 members and a waiting list of about 25. Purchased CPR dummies and will offer CPR to patrol from patrollers who are CPR instructors. Retention: losing members due to family issues, moving from the area and professional demands.

Squaw Valley: Brian Berry, Tom Werner Siberia will be replaced with a 6 pack high speed chair; no replacement for Red Dog. As requested by management, a per cent of volunteer and paid on duty are assigned to speed control on Mountain Run. Paid staff reduced dramatically after Ski and Skate week. Mark Piersante's weekly communications are well received. Candidate class of 6 this year. Lifetime pass is awarded at 25 years. "Complex 7" patrollers assist patients to the base and to the clinic but do not handle toboggans. All toboggans with patients are required to have a tail rope. All patrollers are required at least 2 CE clinics during the season. 4 NSP patrollers are preparing for the Senior OEC Evaluation on March 29. The OET Squaw clinic is March 11-13; cost is \$200; contact is Dave Kornblith.

Tahoe Backcountry Roger Yang Avy1 class completed successfully. MTR1 and 2 class will be completed next weekend. No patrols days cancelled due to low snow...yet. We have shifted much of our patrol work and training to the Mt. Rose/Tamrack Peak backcountry because of the better snow coverage and higher public usage. Snowpack at Castle Peak, Pole Creek, and Sugar

Bowl backcountry is very thin and quickly melting. We're still seeing large numbers of snowshoers in these areas but not much skiable terrain left.

Tahoe Donner - Alpine Dave Low Conducted "On the Hill" refresher with what little snow we had. Tahoe Donner had 1 Green and 2 Blue run open during the refresher. The Monday after the refresher only the Green run with obstacles was available. Tahoe Donner has been close since January 29th. 2 candidates that could become patroller if we had more snow. Will try to finish them up when or if the hill re-opens this year.

Tahoe Donner Nordic: Jerry Milana Good season of skier visits during the holidays. Operating out of temporary buildings while the new lodge is under constructxions. 2 transfers are added to the patrol registration. Paid staff consists of 3 EMT's and 1 OEC certified. If there is an incident on the trails, the paid staff take a snowmobile to the scene and pull the sled back with the patient.

Sky Tavern: Mike Balavage: Sky Tavern is registered in the Pro Division and located in the Eastern Sierra Region area near Mt. Rose. It is owned by the City of Reno and run as a non-profit by volunteers. The area focuses on offering kids ski lessons and winter sport opportunities to the disabled. Sky is open on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Mike invited everyone to visit the area.

Treasurer Steve Costello

Balances:

Checking \$17,485.59

Savings \$500.68

One outstanding check: \$24.14

Expenses since last meeting: \$521.30

November Meeting expenses, Advisor travel reimbursement to 9/2014 ICE, Web page subscription, postage to mail certificates to So Bay class

Income: ESR shirts \$44.00

Please forward pending expenses. All are paid to date.

ACTION ITEM: Treasurer will contact Tom Sherry to get web hosting off Tom's credit card account and onto a direct billing to the ESR.

ACTION ITEM: The Treasurer is requested to inquire about acquiring a credit or debit card for our account to pay for OEC tests online to NSP, pay for our web hosting, and online equipment orders.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Assistant Director, Parliamentarian, Calendar Tim Stephens

Please send calendar items to Tim Stephens.

Assistant Director Katie Dumont

When closing courses in all disciplines, also send the CCR to Katie DuMont, and she will advocate to NSP for closure of the course if it is not closed initially in a timely manner.

Director Nancy Stromswold

Josh Masur has accepted the position as FWD Legal Advisor effective March 7, 2015. Please forward recommendations for the ESR Legal to Nancy Stromswold and/or Katie DuMont

Katie DuMont ran unopposed for the ESR Director position, and as per the FWD Bylaws will assume the responsibilities as the ESR Director on June 1, 2015.

The 2015 Instructor Continuing Education Clinic is scheduled for September 12, 2015.

Instructors in all disciplines and regions are invited to attend. I encourage patrols to reimburse their

instructors the cost of registration. Attendance at a Continuing Education Clinic is required once within the 3 year certification. Attendance at the ICE does not reset the Instructor's expiration date.

When registering a course, please register 3 weeks prior to the start date, no "in house" exams, and an outside IT required for a certifying course. Please send the completed CCR to NSP within 2 weeks of the course completion.

Polo shirts: 6 left: 3 Men's (1 Med, 2 Lg); 3 Women's (2 Med, 1 Lg) \$22

Kevin Murnane, General Manager of Tahoe XC, died this past week. Tahoe XC was registered as a Nordic patrol in the ESR, but is currently inactive due to the lack of snow and ability for the area to open.

TRAINING ADVISOR REPORTS

Senior Dave Pinsky Rob May is the new Senior Advisor at Squaw Valley. Patrols preparing candidates for evaluation this year are Squaw, Heavenly, and Alpine. A Senior OEC Module evaluation is scheduled for March 29, 2015 at Tahoe Donner Downhill Resort. A support staff of 45 is needed to evaluate the 7 candidates. A Senior TE course was not held this year given the 24 TE's already certified in the ESR. We will reevaluate the need for additional TE's next season when the current TE's are up for recertification. Recertification is required for all TE's every three years. The Squaw OET Clinic, which includes a Senior component, will be March 11-13. Sugar Bowl is also holding a Senior OET clinic on April 4-5; Vicky Day is the contact for this event.

OET Trudy Nye No requests for assistance in training or clinics. Women's clinic is Mar. 1, TES and SES. Start location may change from CA to NV depending on conditions. PSIA Women's Summit is March 9-11 at Squaw. Squaw Valley OET clinic March 11-13 at Squaw

OEC David Stepner 5 OEC classes are planned for this coming fall: South Bay course let by Bill Booth on Tues/Thurs evenings; Concord course let by Oliver Fontana on Tues/Thurs evenings; Sacramento course let by Keith Romig on Tues/Thurs evenings; Truckee course let by Karl Barber on Sundays; Squaw Intensive course led by David Stepner for two weeks from on Oct. 17 to Nov. 1. The South Bay and Concord class will have a combined final, as will the Truckee and Squaw Intensive. Details about the classes will appear on the ESR website once details are confirmed.

There are 140 OEC Instructors in the ESR. A discussion if that many instructors are needed and can meet the recertification requirements within the 3 year window was discussed. The "Stasis Plan" of only certifying the number of OEC instructors who are not renewing their OEC instructor certification was preferred by the Board. Making the requirements harder to be an OEC instructor was not preferred. It was commented that the Senior Program requires 3 electives, and becoming an Instructor is one of them. Also, being active an instructor is a good for retention of members.

The OEC 5 Standard of Training (not Standard of Care or protocols from a specific resort) are ALWAYS used when evaluating Basic or Senior candidates. When the Standard of Care at a resort is different than the OEC 5 Standard of Training, it is BEST to have the differences clarified and in writing with the resort and signed by the Medical Director. The ESR Legal Advisor stated that a document with signature is not required because facts of the differences would come out in deposition of witnesses if needed.

David asked is a PR's to consider the need for a Last Chance Refresher in the Bay Area in addition to one at the Lake. For the second year David has written the OEC final and assisting with the final exam scenarios.

Nordic Roger Yang One MTR 1 and MTR 2 class held by Tahoe Backcountry this season.

Instructor Development Howard Jordan One ID class held Feb 21 by IOR Loretta O'Brien with 8 students. Are ID classes needed? Instructor Continuing Education clinic on September 12, 2015 in Davis, CA. Tom Sherry added that he is potentially holding a Hybrid ID class on April 9, 2015. Tom is the contact for this event.

Certified Keith Tatsukawa No report submitted.

Avalanche Alex Urza, Phil Chernin, Mike Derby Tahoe Backcountry held a Level 1 class for new patrollers. Completed classroom 2 days of classroom session for the Level 2 course on December 6/7. Level 2 fieldwork and all other Avy classes have been cancelled or postponed until next season due to lack of snow. Next year's planning will take place at Davis. The Director was asked to please contact the Avalanche 2 Instructors and ask that at least some of the field session be held (possibly near Mt. Rose, Tahoe Meadows area.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR REPORTS

Website Rye Livingston Advisors, please send updated material to Rye to update your web page. Two mail lists are available behind the password for patrollers to access and use.

Recruiting Jim Margolis No report submitted.

Medical Jim Margolis Doc Margolis submitted an article about "Stress Management" to the Ski Patrol Magazine. It was accepted and will probably be published in the fall edition of the SPM.

Legal Josh Masur The FWD Use of Funds document specifically states that Community College Funds are Unrestricted. Thus, those funds can be used for activities related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose. His interpretation was that the Community College funds could be used to support the proposal tabled at the last meeting of reimbursing mileage to members required to attend the ESR board meetings. FWD Director Bill Gibson disagreed, and stated the CCP funds are restricted.

The vote on the proposal tabled at the last meeting was held. Drew Oliphant revised the original proposal to state that members required to attend the ESR meetings may be reimbursed mileage to and from home at the current IRS rate for non-profit and may include \$20.00 per day for meals. The proposal did not receive a 2nd from the Board, and was not voted upon. It was noted that it is reasonable for PR's to request reimbursement from their patrol funds for travel to and from the ESR Board meetings.

ACTION ITEM: Tim Stephens made the motion, seconded by Jerry Milana, that the Director write a proposal and present it to the FWD at their next meeting on March 7, 2015 to consistently identify Community College funds as Unrestricted.

Equipment Loretta Barranger Most of last year's equipment expenses were for class consumables which were reimbursed by course fees. A new airway mannequin, pelvic slings, and 2 KEDs approved and purchased last year were in classes this past fall. Some instructors store equipment they use regularly and its location is documented on the ESR Inventory. O2 tank #9 and #15 have been missing since last spring. If a patrol or instructor wants to check out equipment, please use the form on the ESR website. The borrower will then make arrangements with Loretta to

get the equipment from the shed. Four Hare Traction devices are no longer being used in the ESR, and will be donated to Dodge Ridge SP for training. Stepner asked if any patrols are using the new Slishman Femur Traction device. It appears only Squaw has one on the hill but also still have Sagers.

Community College Program Nancy Stromswold All ESR patrols participating in the CCP turned in their 28 hour grade sheets by 2/15/2015. Funds will be distributed after the FWD meeting in August, 2015, if the CCP Coordinator Tom Taylor has received the current signed MOU and accounting of expenditures of CCP funds, and the ESR Region Financial Accounting is received by the FWD Treasurer.

Backcountry Safety Mike Kelly 6 GPS units are added to the ESR Equipment Inventory and available for check-out. Mike Kelly stated they were purchased by ESR funds several years ago. The units are currently stored by Mike Kelly and are in use by Tahoe Backcountry SP MTR course students.

Awards Leilani Connolly March 1 is the deadline for Outstanding Awards.

Alumni Armon Cooper Much has happened in the NSP Alumni World since I last reported to the Board on February 8, 2014, and there are encouraging signs that the Alumni Program is coming to life, at national and local levels.

1. The National Board has established a National Alumni Advisory Committee, and appointed Marty Huebner its Chair. The Board also appointed Marty as new Program Advisor for the National Alumni Program. Marty is enthusiastic and energetic, and chaired a first telephone conference of the Advisory Committee on October 25, 2014. The meeting was attended by alumni advisors from around the country, including Tim Viall of the Mother Lode Region and myself. Emphasis at the meeting was on increasing alumni registration, both nationally and locally. Marty reported by email to the Committee on January 25, 2015 that the National office is actively assisting in the registration effort, and has prepared and distributed guidelines for online registration.
2. The first annual ESR alumni ski day at Homewood on March 19 last year was a resounding success, thanks to the efforts of Chuck Herbert and Nancy Stromswold. More than 20 enthusiastic alums skied together on a beautiful day, but on limited terrain because of the drought.
3. Relentless Chuck has been at it again, and the second annual ESR alumni ski day is scheduled for March 18 at Sugar Bowl, to be held in conjunction with the Mother Lode Region. Sugar Bowl has agreed to contribute 25 complimentary ski passes and to offer a 50% discount on lunch. Contact Reed Sorensen (sodapop08@att.net) to register.

Far West Division Director Bill Gibson Bill is on the NSP IT Committee that teleconferences once a week to determine the direction of establishing a viable data management system for the NSP. Proposals have been received from two companies to rework and rewrite the NSP data. The system is currently "bandaided", is experiencing several mapping issues, but a usable member profile is running. The goal is before the 2015 refresher season the NSP will have an outside company managing our data, but the best proposal is 30 weeks of work. It has been determined that a lot of the problems are human error. It is acknowledged that the system of receiving course completions is cumbersome and needs to be improved.

The recruiting of a new Education Director netted 85 applicants. The selection committee has narrowed the field to 4 candidates who will be interviewed. The goal is the new director will be on the job before Powerfall.

Bill asked the PR's for their input about the annual FWD Recruiting efforts at the 3 trade shows in San Francisco, San Jose, and Sacramento. It common response was that the exposure to the public is good for brand recognition, but the events do not recruit the quality prospects they are looking for.

NSP Board Member Tom Sherry The NSP Board continues to work cooperatively, is functioning as a coherent unit, and is "more in the right direction" than in the past. Tom sits on the Planning Committee which focuses on long term strategic planning for the NSP. 480 recurrently registered for Powerfall April 10-12 at the Canyons, UT.

Tom made a motion, seconded by Drew Oliphant, to donate \$100 to the NSP; passed. The donation includes a plaque with the inscription "Eastern Sierra Region" on the Cascade sled in the foyer of the NSP offices.

ACTION ITEM: The Treasurer will write and send a donation check to the NSP for \$100.

Old Business ACTION ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER, 2014 MEETING TO BE COMPLETED: Tabled from the November meeting, a proposal to the board recommending reimbursement of travel expenses for Patrol Representatives who are required to attend ESR meetings. This item was discussed during the Legal Advisor's report. The motion failed to receive a 2nd, thus was not voted upon and not passed.

New Business The next meeting will be on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at 9:00 am at Katie DuMont's house in Rescue, CA. (NOTE prior to finalizing and voting on the minutes: The meeting date was changed to July 18, 2015)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 PM.