



**NATIONAL SKI PATROL
EASTERN SIERRA REGION
Tahoe Donner Northwoods Clubhouse,
Truckee, CA
Minutes for Saturday, February 25, 2017**

Called to order 9:45am

In attendance, proxies

Katie DuMont, ESR Director, Brian Haena, ESR AD; Tim Stephens, ESR AD and Heavenly proxy; Steve Costello, ESR Treasurer and Sierra Ski Patrol proxy; Kirk Sachtler, Alpine Meadows proxy; Loretta O'Brien, Homewood PR; Nancy Stromswold, Kirkwood PR and FWD AD; Mike Krueger, Northstar proxy; Brian Berry, Squaw Valley Pro Patrol PR; Tom Werner Squaw Valley PR; Chris Niggel, Tahoe Backcountry PR; Derek Koonce, Tahoe Donner Alpine PR; Jerry Milana, Tahoe Donner CC PR; Dr. Jim Margolis, ESR Medical and Recruitment Advisor; Dave Pinsky, ESR Senior Advisor; Bill Gibson, FWD Director; Rob Morrow, member – Alpine Meadows; Peter Mu, member – Tahoe Donner Alpine; Rob May, member – Squaw Valley

Additions to Agenda under New Business: none

Motion to Accept Agenda: Derek Koonce, 2nd Jerry Milana; passed

Presenters listed in gray submitted report by email and were not in attendance

Patrol Representative Reports

Answers to ESR meeting questions attached as appendix A

Alpine Meadows: Kirk Sachtler (proxy)

Every day has been a “senior” test for patrol dealing with the large amount of snow. Questions from Alpine patrol:

- How are instructors to keep record on website
 - Showed Kirk the NSP.ORG website and where course instructors are listed
- Expressed that there was a seeming lack of communication regarding OEC courses
 - Discussion was held on how course locations are laid out and that PR's are notified after summer meeting of OEC course schedule, location and IOR's
- Expressed concern that the senior OEC scenarios being used nationally is an issue logistically because the same scenarios are used at all senior OEC events meaning that helpers can't test in the same year that they assist.
- Inquired about how ID courses could be more accessible

Heavenly Patrol: Tim Stephens (Proxy)

- Shared struggles staying open due to weather.
- Informed the group that Vail Corp had purchased Stow mountain in Vermont.
- Heavenly will be hosting the 20th annual women's clinic tomorrow 2/26/17.
- Trying to organize an Avi 1 course – dates and info to follow
- Heavenly BOD discussed patroller inactivity. The question went to the group as to how other patrols handle it
 - Tahoe Donner Alpine registers them as alumni
 - Homewood treats them as transfers after 2 seasons – they added this policy to their bylaws. If, on returning, they do not pass the transfer testing they are returned to candidate status on the hill.
 - Squaw has designation for OEC certified non-skiing then evaluate them when they return. Bylaws have a 2-year limit to inactivity.
 - Jim Margolis, ESR advisor for recruitment and retention, encouraged patrol flexibility to keep patrollers within NSP.

Homewood: Loretta O'Brien

- Thanked everyone for support after the fire at their resort lodge.
- Discussed their “ski with patrol” recruitment activity.

Kirkwood: Nancy Stromswold

Nothing to report outside of questionnaire

Northstar: Mike Krueger (Proxy)

- Discussed their ongoing on hill training this season and asked how other patrols handled training.
 - Homewood schedules weekend time for patrol and candidate training – approximately 1 hour using senior program to conduct OEC training.
 - Sierra has weekly training topics focused on the first couple of hours of the day right after mountain set up.
 - Squaw has mandatory CE's – they require 2 per year and offer multiple opportunities during the year to complete those CE's.
- Mid-winter OEC testing is coming up. Candidates must enroll by 3/1 – so far 4 people are committed. Testing is 3/19 and each candidate must bring 3 helpers.
- Bill Gibson, FWD Director, reminded everyone that the PR's are responsible for their patrollers – including training. He reminded everyone that training records are key. NSAA suggests that every patroller (paid or volunteer) have a training record maintained by the mountain. He also recommended that PR's carry personal liability umbrella policies.

Sierra Ski Patrol: Steve Costello (proxy)

- Discussed incident tracking
- Discussed patrol shadow as a recruitment tool as well as movement between host program and patrol as recruitment opportunities

Squaw: Brian Berry and Tom Werner

- They currently have two NSP programs – the pro program has 68 members and the volunteer program has 80 members
- Adopted formal transfer policy based on a policy that was provided to them by Alpine Meadows.
- They have added social functions to aid in patroller retention and used a member satisfaction survey to identify and address issues.
- Upcoming events at Squaw:
 - Women’s world cup racing in 2 weeks
 - Senior S&T clinic 3/15-3/17 – cost is \$250 per participant
- New at Squaw
 - They have purchased a roll up ladder to help evacuate people from deep holes and tree wells
 - They have new backboards with c-spine integrated to the board. The Contrerra VBS vacuum immobilizer costs approximately \$600 each
 - They have opened up an OB/backcountry skiing area through gates
 - They have revised protocols for setting explosives following the incident that they had earlier this season. New protocols include a buddy system on avi control.
 - Bill Gibson presented a memorial for Joe Zuiches. Bill also discussed potential avi control changes in the industry as a result of this tragic incident. Bill also recommended the addition of a whistle to everyone’s uniform in the event that a patroller falls into a tree well or deep hole.
- Discussed the need for assistance in tracking alumni members at the patrol level.

Tahoe Backcountry: Chris Niggel

- 29 active patrollers
- They operate as part of the National Forest Service and communicate through NSF Grass Valley
- They currently have 16 candidates of which 8 of them are OEC certified. They have been focused on training records

Tahoe Donner Alpine: Derek Koonce

- Discussed operational difficulties due to power outages and weather.

Tahoe Donner Cross-Country: Jerry Milana

- Discussed buying beacons for patrol
 - Bill Gibson recommended that they do not purchase beacons as a patrol because they are a “personal use” item and the patrol would take on unneeded liability. He suggested the PR’s review the fees document put out by the FWD which can be found on the FWD website

Division and National Reports

FWD Update – Bill Gibson

- Record snow year – Mt Rose was reporting 53 feet of snow.
- There have been several high wind events within the FWD this season.
- The combination of the snow and wind has many resorts still digging out
- There have been several unusual events this season such as patrollers riding avalanches, falling into tree wells, etc. We need to promote safety within our patrols and make sure we are skiing in pairs.
- Bill discussed the fire at Homewood and Tahoe Donner and the NSP’s response to help both patrols.
- Reinforced the need for detailed training records at each resort
- Reminded the PR’s to reinforce the chain of command within their patrols – individual members should go to PR’s and PR’s should escalate all issues through the regional director
- Reminded all PR’s that all patrol financials need to be filed with regional treasurer by June 1st Also reminded everyone that FWD website has a “Use of Funds” document to provide guidance to patrols.
- Dues and OEC delinquencies are the responsibility of the PR’s to make sure members are all up to date. Members with delinquencies in either area should not be patrolling until the delinquencies are taken care of.
- Discussed the online ID course
- Reminded PR’s that if there is a major happening at their resort to inform the region and division right away. NSP has resources to help when needed.
- Bill announced that he is terming out at the end of May as FWD director – making this his last meeting with ESR as the FWD director.

Region Reports

Treasurer – Steve Costello

Balances

\$	23,939.99	Checking	
\$	500.98	Savings	.08 interest FYTD thru 2/24/17
\$	24,440.97	Total	

Outstanding

\$	231.67	Outstanding Check
\$	-	Outstanding Deposit
✓✓ \$	24,209.30	Agrees with spreadsheet

Activity November 17, 2016 - Feb 24, 2017 (Second meeting)

Income:

OEC classes	\$ 550.00
Avalanche class	\$ 1,850.00

Expenses:

OEC classes	\$ 241.73
meetings	\$ 211.43
awards	\$ 231.67

\$ 2,400.00

\$ 684.83

- Reminded everyone that expenses must be filed within 60 days for reimbursement
 - There have been issues with people holding on to small expenses waiting to accumulate more before filing for reimbursement.
- Steve as proxy for Sierra Ski Patrol made a motion to reimburse Leilani on an expense that was past the 60 day policy. Reimbursement amount is \$4.49 for an expense incurred last summer. 2nd to this motion by Jerry Milana – voted on and passed.
- Bill pointed out the ESR director should have the ability to reimburse expenses up to a certain dollar amount in the bylaws without board approval. This should be added to ESR bylaws.

Assistant Director, Parliamentarian & Calendar – Tim Stephens

Please submit calendar items to Tim for publishing to ESR calendar

Assistant Director – Brian Haena

- Discussed ESR makeup “last chance” cycle C refresher scheduled for the following day (2/26)
- 2017 ESR ICE Event
 - Request was made for two separate dates to allow the group to split up since it will be a larger than normal group
 - Request was made to have one event in Davis as traditionally done and one in Tahoe area to allow for those farther away to easily make it to an event
 - Davis event is typically held 2nd Saturday of September (9/9/17)
 - Potential new venue – feedback was that the church air conditioning situation is not favorable
 - Looking into UC Davis

Director – Katie DuMont






- Polo shirts: 2 left: Men's 1 Lg; Women's 1 Lg (\$22 ea & \$25 if shipped)
- Announcements
 - Deadline for Outstanding Nominations to Leilani/Awards Advisor, March 15, 2017
 - Powderfall 2017 - April 6-8, 2017 in Aspen Snowmass, Colorado
- News & Events - See complete News & Events Calendar attached as Appendix B

Training Advisor Reports

Avalanche: Presented by Rob Morrow Report by Bill Hummer and Phil Chernin

It's been a busy ski season for anyone thinking about avalanche safety and avalanche science. Cumulative snowfall at Sugar Bowl, Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows is more than 500 inches, and Mt Rose, Heavenly Mtn and Northstar have similar total snowfall numbers.

Sierra Avalanche Center – Encourage your patrol and patrollers to support the organization because it keeps us all safe and we only need to list the number of Considerable, High and Extreme avalanche advisories this season! Let's support the Sierra Avalanche Center!

North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale				
Avalanche danger is determined by the likelihood, size and distribution of avalanches.				
Danger Level		Travel Advice	Likelihood of Avalanches	Avalanche Size and Distribution
5 Extreme		Avoid all avalanche terrain.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches certain.	Large to very large avalanches in many areas.
4 High		Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain <u>not</u> recommended.	Natural avalanches likely; human-triggered avalanches very likely.	Large avalanches in many areas; or very large avalanches in specific areas.
3 Considerable		Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding and conservative decision-making essential.	Natural avalanches possible; human-triggered avalanches likely.	Small avalanches in many areas; or large avalanches in specific areas; or very large avalanches in isolated areas.
2 Moderate		Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.	Natural avalanches unlikely; human-triggered avalanches possible.	Small avalanches in specific areas; or large avalanches in isolated areas.
1 Low		Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches unlikely.	Small avalanches in isolated areas or extreme terrain.

Safe backcountry travel requires training and experience. You control your own risk by choosing where, when and how you travel.

North American Avalanche Danger Scale,

A brief 3 minute video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_-KpOu7tbA

Know Before You Go, by the Utah Avalanche Center

<https://vimeo.com/144545554>

Snowmobile Avalanche Education and Safety Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIFmp6zE_sg

Avalanche Program

Avalanche Courses, 2016-2017

Three Level 1 avalanche courses were scheduled for the Eastern Sierra, a Region-based course in Tahoe City with field days at Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley, Tahoe Backcountry with field days at Tamarack and Castle Peak, and another course at Heavenly Mtn that is a combined AIARE-NSP. March 4-5 is looking like a busy weekend with both the ESR-Region Level 1 course and the Heavenly Mtn Level 1 course scheduled.

Region, Level 1 for Rescue Personnel. 16 students and 10 instructors on December 3 & 4 using the North Tahoe Fire Department facilities for a 2-day multi-media classroom with dry-land field activities. March 4 & 5 are the field days at Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley.

Tahoe Backcountry SP. Level 1. 19 students with 3 instructors and 1 candidate instructor using the Truckee Airport facilities for a 1-day classroom followed by 2 field days over the MLK Holiday weekend of January 14, 15 & 16.

Heavenly Mtn Resort. AIARE/NSP Level 1. 15 students with 6-8 instructors and 1 candidate instructor using California Lodge facilities for two days of ½-day classroom and 1/2-day field and wrapping up with a final field day, March 4, 5 & 12. If interested, contact Brian Morr at brianmorr@msn.com ASAP as the course is nearly full.

(Comment from Keith Neergaard upon review of minutes “the Heavenly Level 1 Avalanche class is referenced as a combined AIARE and NSP class in two separate paragraphs. This is incorrect. It was a Level 1 course just like the north shore classes referenced in the opening part of the report. Further, it was a South Lake Tahoe class, open to search and rescue and the public.”)

Future courses, 2017-2018 (planning for next season)

To Register. <https://goo.gl/forms/iQmYjGkMS6cVQ0yj1>

Level 1 avalanche. The region will likely have multiple classroom sessions are anticipated, north shore and south shore to better schedule our instructor resources.

Level 2 avalanche. The region will have a Level 2 avalanche course scheduled next season. Tentative classroom dates are December 2 & 3 or 9 & 10, 2017. 2 classroom days & 4 field days, stay tuned for field dates, and interested students should send an email to esr.avalanche@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Nathan Smith of Heavenly Mtn Resort and Ian Bollinger of Tahoe Backcountry Ski Patrol. Both Nate and Ian received their NSP Level 1 Avalanche Instructor certification, a multi-year effort to develop their avalanche knowledge and skills through teaching and mentoring. They have persevered to teach 30-50% of the curriculum topics and received multiple IT evaluations. Congratulations to both Nate and Ian.

Bottom line – the Eastern Sierra Region Avalanche program has new instructors, successful field courses and many students from all our patrols gaining knowledge of how to be safe in avalanche terrain.

Future goals. To expand the region classroom program and match that with multiple field programs that meets the needs of avalanche students.

Course Calendar. All avalanche instructors want to coordinate their courses with the Region Avalanche Administrator(s) – Bill Hummer and Phil Chernin. This is critical to enable IT resources to attend their courses. Hint!

Snow Pack Rant – listen to ‘Slide, the avalanche podcast’.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-660921194/tracks> Find a millennial to help you to configure the podcast and then subscribe using Sound Cloud, Google Android or the Apple store. Sound Cloud has good music to match the podcast.

11 episodes so far from Doug Krause, Silverton, Colorado resident with patrolling, avalanche



forecasting, guiding and avalanche consulting experience on multiple continents and at least two hemispheres listed on his CV. Currently in Hakuba Japan to develop an avalanche safety program and ski some deep snow while

making weekly podcasts.

Test your knowledge. How does a dry on wet faceting layer form?

- a) Consider a rain event that enables an incipient crust formation to occur,
- b) Followed by a rapid/really fast cold snap and new snow layer below 0°C,
- c) This baby crust stays at 0°C,
- d) A new snow layer is deposited that is cold & dry and with corresponding below 0°C air temperature,
- e) This sets up a temperature gradient and leading to faceting on top of the crust and the formation of a weak layer that we all need to be aware of.
- f) Careful, lots of brain science mumbo jumbo.

End Result – Managing Terrain is Always Safe!

Low Probability with High Consequence or High Probability with High Consequence, both are dangerous because high consequence is always a bad decision point!

Enjoy those winter slopes, but be careful while skiing in avalanche terrain! Always consult the Sierra Avalanche Center for the latest avalanche advisory and refresh your avalanche knowledge!

Eastern Sierra Region, Avalanche Program Advisors
Bill Hummer, Squaw Valley,
Phil Chernin, Squaw Valley,
Rob Morrow, Alpine Meadows, Avalanche IT

Certified: Keith Tatsukawa
No report

Instructor Development: Tom Sherry
From an ESR ID Perspective:

There are no active ID classes that I'm aware of with the updated online course the class is being taught in an "on demand" style for 1-3 patrollers

I like this model as it leverages online learning and only deals with patrollers that are interested and active

The ESR ID Instructors will continue to provide classes as requested by patrollers and patrol leadership.

Yours In Outdoor Safety and Education,
Tom

Nordic: Roger Yang
No report

OEC: Oliver Fontana
No report

OET: Dave Stromswold

EASTERN SIERRA REGION PATROL REPRESENTATIVES:

This has been a difficult season for all patrols. Who thought that after the last few years we would be complaining about too much snow? Please remember your personal safety and safety of our patrollers need to be stressed always. **IF A PATROLLER DOES NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING A TASK, THEY ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAP OUT AND SHOULD.**

So, on with business at hand. OET instructors need to register courses if any training is taking place at your resort. Most patrols have registered their Intro to Patrolling course, but a few patrols in the ESR do not show this course registered. Instructors are not covered by NSP liability unless the course is registered and the student(s) are enrolled. Every patrol has registered their Toboggan Refresher. Most are closed and a few are still ACTIVE on the Course Report. Be sure to close all courses within two weeks of the End Date.

Have a great long season.
Dave Stromswold
EASTERN SIERRA OET ADVISOR
530-525-8133

Senior Program: Dave Pinsky

- Dodge Ridge will host an SEM on 3/25
- Several TE's expire at the end of 2017
- Now is the time to start next years senior training program
- Reminder that 3/15-3/17 is the Senior S&T at Squaw
- Dave introduced Rob May from Squaw as his assistant and potential successor as advisor
- Dave will schedule next seasons SEM events and have dates available for PR's by the summer ESR meeting.

Women's Program: Tammie Hoedeman
No Report

Administrative Advisor Reports

Alumni: Armon Cooper

To: ESR Regional Director and Patrol Representatives

From: Armon Cooper, Alumni Advisor

Date: 2/25/2017

1. **Status.** Tim Viall, FWD Alumni Advisor, has been aggressively promoting the alumni program in the FWD. He included in the February FWD newsletter, "News and Views," an entire page introducing the program to all members of the FWD, and asking for feedback to him or one of the 4 regional alumni advisors. Tim also encouraged all patrols and resorts in the division to host an "Alumni Celebration Day" in 2017, citing the ESR alumni ski days in 2015 and 2016. Finally, a meeting of division alumni advisors is tentatively scheduled for the NSP Powderfall event in Aspen April 6-9, to discuss ways to expand and improve the alumni program nationally.
2. **Goals.** Our immediate goal remains for each ESR patrol to have an alumni advisor, whose duties and responsibilities are described in the Alumni Manual distributed at the last meeting (and available online at the NSP website). To my knowledge, no patrol has yet appointed an alumni advisor. We would also like to schedule an ESR Alumni Celebration Day in April at one of our ski areas.
3. **Action.** I ask each patrol director to send me asap the following:
 - Contact information for the patrol alumni advisor;
 - An indication whether the patrol's ski area might be interested in hosting an Alumni Celebration Day in April, and if so contact information for follow up.

Thank you all. I regret being unable to attend the meeting, and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting in Vacaville in July.

Awards: Leilani Connolly

The deadline for sending me Outstanding nominations is March 15. They may be sent via mail or as a PDF email attachment. Please make sure all facts in the nomination are accurate.

Equipment: Loretta Barranger

- Still working on equipment inventory
- Next major equipment purchase will be replacement projectors for OEC courses

Historian: Chuck Herbert

No Report

Legal: Nate Garhart
No Report

Medical: Dr. Jim Margolis

- Backboard / C-Spine seems to be different by patrol.
- Patrols should have a written letter of understanding anytime local protocols differ from those of OEC 5 as OEC 5 is our training standard
- Patrols should consider using aspirin for cardiac events
- CA legislation now allows restaurants to have epi-pens on hand. Recommends that resorts look to do the same.

Records – Nancy Stromswold

- Delinquency reports are all available to PR's
 - Includes OEC, Dues and Course Reports
- If there are any issues with reports please inform Nancy so she can address it at the NSP level
- Options for dues for inactive patrollers:
 - Option 1 pay “normal” dues for temporarily not patrolling (\$55 NSP and \$19 FWD)
 - Option 2 join alumni for \$30 – keep join date
 - Option 3 pay no dues and come back at a later time. You will be assigned a new join date when you return.
- Courses should close within 2 weeks of the end date. ESR currently has 7 courses that are overdue. Instructors need to be sure to review/edit the list of students/instructors/IT's when closing courses.
- There are about 400 alumni members in FWD who have not paid dues. After 2 years they will be moved to “inactive”

Recruiting – Jim Margolis

- Introduced Peter Mu as his assistant and potential successor
- Discussed maintaining contact with OEC course graduates
- Please forward any recruitment materials that you have (20-30 copies) to Jim or Peter
- John McGuigan (FWD) will be contacting everyone to discuss 2018-19 recruitment needs
- Submitted report (see attached Appendix C)

Website: Rye Livingston

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS —

Very low visits to the website, primarily because old content and email notices and newsletters provide all the content needed. Emails do not drive members to the website to find more information.

GOALS FOR COMING SEASON:

I hope to work with ESR Director and Advisors, to greatly enhance the look and feel of the content. I'd like to see a brief bio of each advisor and where they patrol, along with a photo of them in their patrol coat. This makes them more personal and approachable.

Most of all I'd like to see some sort of "warm fuzzy" intro to their program. "This is what my program is about. I'm here to be of assistance to you. How can I make your life easier? How can I help make a regional advisor more successful? I want to help you, please call or email me."

ISSUES and RESOLUTIONS:

Main issue is old content. Other pages have very static content that never changes. Some of that is OK, but it's also pretty boring.

Each advisor is responsible for the content on that page for their program. It's their opportunity to "sell" and promote their program to the patrols and members, and how they can be of help. It needs to be compelling and clear what service and/or assistance they are offering.

Old Business

None

New Business

Next meeting Saturday 7/22/17 at Kaiser Vacaville

Motion to close by Jerry Milana, meeting adjourned at 2:14pm