

Western Michigan Region Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

Attendees:

Chip Knappen	Sue Brann	John Donnelly	Pat Livingston
Chip Hurley	Dan Goldberger	Kyle Jones	Don Smith
Shawn Rhoda	John Mallet	Rog Brands	Steffany Dunker

- I. Call to Order
6:30pm C Knappen
- II. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
Motion moved by P Livingston, 2nd D Smith - Motion Carried
- III. Treasurer's Report(J Donnelly)
 - A. Current Financial Position
Is In good shape

1-10-17 wmr finannce.pdf
 - B. Additional money needed for Alpine program
Motion was made by D Smith and 2nd by S Brann to add \$1500 to Alpine line item to cover the cost associated with more senior candidates – Motion Carried
- IV. Web Master
If you have any information you need on the web site please forward to Jon Kelder
- V. Open Region Staff Position – Alumni
Looking to fill this position with possibly some one that is an alumnus
- VI. Section Reports
 - A. Section I
Sorry to inform you that it is a slippery slope that starts with me not being able to make tonight's meeting. Take Care, Martha

B. Section II

Here's my quick report for WM II:

Fall refresher was a huge success. All patrollers were able to complete the online refresher, workbook and hands-on portion for the refresher. Matt Chapman and Mike Garbarty chaired the event and all scheduling was on task and on time.

We are in the final stages of our ski swap. Seeing we had some final inventory issues with our vendors that we needed to resolve along with a few sales tax calculations, we should be ready to meet with the account for final allocations towards the end of January.

Would like to suggest if there is a way to combine our training for OEC for the region. If schedules permit, we could have access to more instructors, demonstrations, etc. if we all pitch in together to offer combined or coordinated courses (maybe 1- 2 for the region) so all areas are not overlapping time and resources. Just an idea to throw out.

Everything else looks good for the beginning of the ski season. We need to continue our recruiting efforts for all areas. I think all the patrollers are graying except for me.

Kind regards,

Kevin Barrons

C. Section III

No Report

Lourie Hurley ran unopposed and will be the new Section III Chief as of July

VII. Patrol Reports

A. Timber Ridge (S Rhoda)

12/16/16 opening, have new fat tire bike trail that will be patrolled, 100% open 1/8/17, 4 new candidates, held TES 15 attended, held SES 13 attended

B. Bittersweet (D Goldburger)

Opened 2nd week of December, Hills in good shape, having good crowds

C. Cannonsburg (D Smith)

Opened 12/16/17, having good crowds, D Smith is having a party the Wednesday before the opening of Powderfall at his condo in Aspen, Have 6/7 candidate

Motion was made by D smith, 2nd R Brands for a small grant from WMR to help YAP to go to Powderfall. After discussion the motion was revised to: WMR will provide a \$100 grant to 1 YAP from each of the three sections to attend Powderfall

Event. YAP will submit a one page typed essay stating the desires and goals of attending this event to section chiefs for awarding. Motion carried

D. Pando (R Brands)

17 resisted, 12 active at other patrols

E. Caberfae Peaks (T Kirsh)

The area opened on Friday, 9 December 2016

The NSP Volunteer patrol started our coverage shifts on Saturday, 10 December 2016.

We were able to get the South Peak complex open just after we held the Region Toboggan Clinic; sorry it could not be opened in time for the clinic!

The new Vista Chair is now running well. We had several issues during the first few days of operation that caused some unplanned stops but it sounds like most of them have been fully resolved

Caberfae runs both North Peak and Vista on weekends, so the crowds at the bottom of North are greatly reduced as the skiers split between the 2 operating lifts

Planned season closing date is 2 April 2017.

Clinics

We are ready to host the Senior Evaluators Clinic and the Senior Candidate Clinic on 21 & 22 January, 2017

Caberfae has the Stags Head Bar area reserved for us, we will make sure coffee is available in the morning at the coffee bar in the lobby

As we have done in the past, we can provide 1 training toboggan for use during the clinic if additional equipment is needed based on attendance, please bring over and we will pull over to the base of South on Saturday morning.

Please plan to bring Region Carriers

As soon as we have attendance numbers, please let me know and I will confirm everything with Caberfae and make arrangements for ticket delivery

Candidates

Our 2 candidates that completed OEC in November have started on Hill Training. All is going well and most of the candidates are making good progress with ski and toboggan skills. We need to encourage a couple of the candidates to get to the hill for training more frequently so we can keep them progressing with the remainder of the group

We have already had 4 submissions for candidates for next season so Caberfae is currently planning to hold an OEC course next summer plan currently is to use a similar schedule to prior seasons - start classes in April, hold classes 1 weekend per

month, take a month off in July or August for summer vacation and hold the practical and written finals in November so the candidates start the ski season as Patrollers.

Senior Program

We have 5 or 6 Alpine Patrollers that have expressed an interest in starting the senior program in the next year or so. I have signed a number of senior application forms, but not sure how many have actually been submitted as senior candidates try to adjust their schedule based on the dates for hill and OEC sessions.

Some who have expressed interest in starting the senior program and currently completing Patroller hill training, so they will begin senior preparation next season, if all goes as planned.

I know at least three have mailed in senior applications and intend to start either hill or OEC this season

Cassie and the OEC Instructors have held a number of Senior OEC practice sessions during December and early January with scenarios conducted on the snow in some of the more difficult terrain. The scenarios are all upper level Senior skill scenarios, from back boarding on a steep slope to traction splinting in tightly confined areas to complicated multiple injury scenarios. So far, the feedback from the senior candidates and Alpine Patrollers that have also participated has been very positive. If we do not achieve additional benefits, some of our patrollers are much more comfortable and confident in handling serious accidents in difficult conditions.

As always, senior candidates that want to come up to practice on South are welcome throughout the season. Contact me, Cassie Proctor or Dave Worfel to make arrangements for tickets and to see if we have a hill training program set-up for the day they would like to attend.

CPSP

So far, it has been a good season, started a little late but natural snow combined with snowmaking has produced an excellent base and great skiing conditions

We lost multiple patrollers to transfer and retirement last season so we are down on Patroller count. The candidates in the program this season will be a big help next year, or once they have completed all the training required for Alpine Patroller. We have 2 injured Patrollers currently not skiing, so our patrol is busy as we are a little stretched to meet hill coverage requirements. A good sized class next summer will also help as we prepare for the 2017-2018 ski season.

We have had some extremely busy days with accidents so far this season. Heaviest rate was on a Sunday where we completed 17 rescues in less than 3 hours.

Hopefully, skiers will improve, the accident rate will decrease and everyone can enjoy the season!

F. Crystal Mt. (C Hurley)

100% open, Sad event happened 1/1/17 with accident of a 10yr old guest who later passed-all patrollers involved provided outstanding care, 1 new alpine patroller, 7 candidates in various stages of training, 12 mountain hosts, 62 registered patrollers with 6 inactive, 13 taking 10 shifts and the remaining 43 covering 840 shifts. Our numbers are down.

We will be hosting the Region Banquet May 6, 2017, a woman's clinic 1/27-29/17, an SES and TES 2/11-12/17. Come on up and ski or ride with us.

G. West Mi. Nordic

No Report

VIII. Advisor Reports

A. ARD Pat Livingston

1. Instructor Development

No Report

2. Elections

Lourie Hurley ran unopposed and will be the new Section III Chief as of July as Scott Waddell is termed out. Thanks Scott for your service.

RD elections- nominations are due 1/26/17 to Division elections director, then elections then results announced 3/27/17

3. Awards Rog Brands

All outstanding awards due to R Brands by 3/1/17, Rog is going to e-mail a list of all available awards out the general patrol so they know all awards that are available.

4. Legal Steffany Dunker

Still working on WMR P & P with C Knappen

B. ARD Sue Brann

1. Alpine Proficiency

Thanks to all in SES/TES as this counts as senior elective

2. Senior Hill Coordinator
12 candidates for hill test skiing and riding on all types of equipment
 - a. Senior Hill Graders
Calibration 1/21/17, Clinic 1/22/17 at Caberfae, Bump clinic 2/25/17, and Hill Test 2/26/17 at Crystal
3. NSPC Ski School Kevin Fultz
No Report
4. OET Erica Krol
11/11/16 7 IT took a LAR class, 18 region staff attended the shorted Division TTW, Held a region TTW at Caberfae with 9 instructor and 16 total in attendance, upcoming TES's at Cannonsburg 1/29/17 and Crystal 2/12/17
5. Certified Hal Froot
Clinic at Nubs 1/14/17 and test in Marquette 3/2-4/17, one candidate is D Smith
6. Alpine Snowboard Kathy Brennan
Event attendance is good for snowboarders- 2 at Division TTW, 2 at Region TTW, 2 at Bittersweets TES. Upcoming events for boarder's – TES at Timber Ridge on 1/8/17, Woman's Clinic at Crystal on 1/28-29/17, and TES at Crystal on 2/12/17
7. Telemark John Mallett
Will be attending all regions training events and looking forward to them
8. MTR/Avalanche Michael Walenta
MTR & AVY is moving along. We had a great Low Angle Rescue class with Erica Krol and her gang a few weeks ago. If you and your area would like a Low Angle Rescue class, just call or text me at 616-240-6576 or e-mail me at walentam@gvsu.edu At Cannonsburg I'll be doing these courses with more regularity now that all the holiday excitement is over and the hill refreshing is completed.

The NSP MTR book, 2nd edition, is available from Amazon. Plans are coming together to start drafting up the NSP MTR 3rd edition.

A complete level one AVY course is being planned out of Houghton i March. More information on this shortly. If you or someone you know is interested in other

Avalanche courses, I have a list of classes from other organizations, recognized by NSP.

As my work schedule slows down and I can plan a bit more over the next 90 days, I'll start posting up more dates for courses. For folks that are interested in a class, it's always best to simply communicate with me directly, again via cell & text at 616-240-6576 or via e-mail at waletnam@gvsu.edu this communication also lets me know what courses and skills people are interested in.

9. OEC (D Goldberger)

14 senior candidates, clinic 2/19/17, test 3/19/17, D Hasse is running those at Timber Ridge. Have had 2 senior evaluator's clinics and Doug is putting another one on 1/23/17 at Bittersweet

10. Safety (D Manke)

No Report

IX. Old Business

A. Rewrite of Region Policies and Procedures

Work on them

B. Other

R Brands asked on how the funding committee is coming along. J Donnelly reported they will have a report as of 5/1/17 as motioned when committee was created. He, Donnelly, also stated that there was a donation to get us through this year.

X. New Business

A. Spring Banquet

S Weddell and L Hurley are getting a committee together to start the planning. D Goldburger also asked for a location from 10am-12pm to have an OEC IT meeting that same day and the region meeting at 1pm

XI. Next Meeting - March 21, 2017 at Brann's on Division in Grand Rapids, MI

XII. **Motion** to Adjourn

8:39pm R Brands, 2nd S Rhoda