

Western Michigan Region Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018 6:30PM

Present:

Chip Knappen	Kyle Jones	Maddie Dodson-
Sue Brann	Don Smith	Garrett
John Donnelly	Doug Haase	Adam Medema
Hal Froot	Erica Krol	Doug Mesara
Rog Brands	Gary Bottomley	Jon Kelder
Chip Hurley	Dennis Menke	Jim Tuinier
Jackie Bottomley		

Not present but submitted reports in advance: Martha Nowak, Laurie Hurley, Mike Oliver, Jason Kovacs, Kevin Barons
(Submitted written reports are in italics)

- I. Call to Order
By John Donnelly at 6:33 p.m.
- II. Introduce New Board and Staff Members
One new staff member introduced, Jim Tuinier as secretary replacing Kyle Jones who has taken over Senior Hill Proficiency
- III. Minutes for 1-9-2018 meeting approved via email – now posted on Region website:
 - a. Comments on process?
There was an ongoing discussion on how to make the minutes and other material available to the entire region and not inundate them with emails that they just delete.
 - b. Plan going forward – short discussion on dissemination methods
After group discussion it was agreed to have a link available on the region website as it is now and a link in the Blue and Gold newsletter.
- IV. Agree on agenda or adjust as needed.
Agenda was agreed upon with no additions
- V. Treasurers Report - Adam Medema
 - a. Current Financial Position – spending vs budget

Report presented shows we are well within our budget and is current as of 3/20. Be careful not to compare with 2016 report as that was the year of the division banquet that our region hosted. Outstanding larger bills that are expected yet are Awards, Senior OEC exam and Region Banquet but we should still be within our budget. The women's clinic actually made money due to a donation! 2 people have not submitted PSIA level 2 test costs which is in the budget to cover part of their testing costs.

Discussion was continued about PSIA and reminder that Region has money to reimburse for successful testing and Division has money a patroller can receive. The patroller must have registered for that before Dec 1, 2017 to be eligible. \$100 is available for level 2 and \$50 for level 1. The Division money is handed out at Division meeting in the fall. It was brought up that a patroller can ask for monies through the Somalsky fund at Division (see division website). John asked that anyone with bills to get them submitted ASAP so they can get them processed and paid.

b. Dues from National/Division (status)

Division has given us our share of the contributions from members since the last meeting.

c. Year-end reporting preparations – list of treasurer at next meeting

In preparation for year end it was asked that the PD's from the various patrols report to Adam if there was a change to any of the treasurers. Send list of treasurers and primary contact info.

d. Communicate dues increase to Division/National (approved May 2017 for 2018-19 fiscal year)

A dues increase for region takes effect this fall, Region dues will go from \$10 to \$15 in the next cycle of dues. John and Adam are to make sure that NSP is made aware of this so it is adjusted when National collects dues. A second increase has been previously approved for 2020 if needed for region programs but can be rescinded if unnecessary.

Motion was made by Chip Knappen and 2nd by Hal Froot to accept the treasurer's report as presented and motion passed.

VI. Director's Updates:

a. National Board election vote info

Extended discussion was made by entire group on the recent NSP board elections. Rough numbers show close to 50% or patrollers voting in Southern and Eastern regions while Central Division had 22%. Initial figures had our region with a 16% voter turnout. There was much discussion on how to increase this participation and why the other 2 divisions had such a large turnout. Do we need to improve website on this or Hal Froot suggests have more local meetings to get more patrollers involved in region? It was asked that ideas be brought to the May meeting. How do we improve communications with members and getting the message out.

b. Fall Central Division Meeting

Division meeting will be held Sept 7 – 9 in the Wisconsin Dells at the Chula Vista Resort. Registration starts in Mid May

VII. Old Business:

a. Current year calendar - revisions (if any)

Jackie Bottomley will be compiling the data and putting together the region calendar, please submit data to her as soon as possible. jbottomley@charter.net

b. Recruiting – review report sent to Division – update regularly based on patrol needs

Looking at ideas for recruiting and what others are doing, i.e. attending events like Warren Miller movie and other venues to advertise and recruit. Crystal brought a pamphlet they pass out. We were asked to get dates we may be able to attend events, biking events, ski swaps and others. Don Smith brought up an idea that region may be able to purchase items for booths like a table, bow flags and boards that can be shared by the patrols. He was asked to make a proposal for

the May meeting. Email Don with suggestions
xdonsmithx@aol.com

A new position was proposed for region, Marketing Advisor. If anyone knows of someone that may be good at this please let the board know.

- c. Fund Raising – update on current progress and/or new ideas
We were reminded of Laurie Hurley’s plan to collect Spartan Nash grocery receipts as a fund raiser
- d. Succession Planning – planning for the future/current needs
Backup for each position needs to be developed. Identify 2 people that could fill a position if needed. Doug Haase brought up how Bittersweet is attempting a committee format with multiple people in the patrol assigned to each position and get more of the individual patrollers involved. As noted before, we need to increase communication on multiple levels to get more of the patrols involved.
Awards is still in need of a new advisor. How do we fill positions? We need to get more awards sent in to get more people noticed.

VIII. Section Reports

- a. Section I Martha Nowak

See flyer emailed on Region Banquet scheduled for May 5, at Timber Ridge. Patrol Directors, please pass these along to your patrols.

- b. Section II Kevin Barrons
Nothing to report

- c. Section III Lourie Hurley

MTR- Low Angle Rescue Class:

*Was held on Saturday, March 3 at Caberfae Peaks; Instructor was **Michael Walenta***

Total of 12 Section III patrollers participated: 5 Crystal and 7 Caberfae Successful event. Hope to have another class next season at Crystal Mountain and/or Caberfae Peaks.

Current and Possible Recruitment for Section III:

A. Caberfae Peaks currently recruits with:

- a. *Caberfae NSP specific posters*
- b. *Interaction with public during ski season (chairs/cafeteria/Patrol Room...)*
- c. *Have patrollers be the “face” of Caberfae and be visible*
- d. *Via current Patrollers - friends and family connections*

B. Crystal Mountain:

- a. *Mountain Host Program!!!*
 - i. *at least one conversion to a patroller each season*
- b. *Interaction with public during ski season (chairs/cafeteria/Patrol Room...)*
- c. *Via current Patrollers/Mountain Hosts - friends and family connections*
- d. *Tri-fold Pamphlet used at events (made by Jackie Bottomley)*
- e. *Attend Northern Michigan -local Ski Swaps*
- f. *Attend Warren Miller type events*
- g. *Created Crystal Mountain Facebook page – use social media*

Future Ideas:

- h. *Create a Crystal Mountain NSP webpage (link to CM and WM websites)*
- i. *Create a Crystal Mountain NSP video to post on webpage and Facebook page*
- j. *Begin to create annual events for the YAP program to attract younger individuals*

IX. Patrol Reports

- a. **Crystal Mt. Chip Hurley/Jackie Bottomley**

Crystal will be skiing/riding through April 1. We have plenty of snow and last week we got over a foot of new snow. The conditions are awesome! So come on up and play with us!

We have 3 new Alpine patrollers this season who passed their hill requirements (Shannon Shull, Scott Webb and Jessica McCallum). We have 1 new Senior patroller - Nick Oberst who passed his final element of OEC last Sunday. Also, a new Senior on tellies (Ringo) this season.

We have 3 new Level 1 PSIA instructors (Kyle Jones, Ringo and Jackie Bottomley). Lots to celebrate.

Planning an OEC candidate class to start in August. Have about 4-6 Mountain Hosts who want to become patrollers. Our Refresher will be November 3.

Still recruiting hosts, patrollers and secondary patrollers. If interested, please contact Jackie. Our final potluck is March 24 - come on up and join us. Have a great summer.

Saturday is retro day at Crystal

November 3rd is refresher. Outside patrollers welcome but there will be a charge.

b. Caberfae Peak Dennis Menke

Management plans to be open thru April 1st for weekend skiing and boarding. Had one Patroller injured while patrolling this season, took a fall that resulted in fractured rib.

Have several applications to join the patrol, and have 8-10 confirmed for this year's class.

As most of you may know an incident at Caberfae, was recently in the news. While there were some negative statements made about the Ski Patrol that upset some of us, those at the scene of the accident, and those that patrol regularly, know better than to believe everything that is stated in the news. Management is behind our patrol one hundred percent, in the care that was given to the injured guest. Our thoughts are with the family and the injured guest, as they go through the recovery process.

John D. noted to everyone that we need to be careful with social media and news. Caution people that Facebook isn't a good spot to air or argue issues. Also we need to advise on how to talk to people, parent and others.

c. Canonsburg Don Smith

Canonsburg had a good season with a full Christmas ski season. Canonsburg ski patrol banquet with hill awards is April 13. Ski Swap made twice as much this year than past year. Had a great Hill training season. Training was short last year so two test were done this year. 5 passed in January and 4 passed in February.

d. Bittersweet Doug Haase

Bittersweet is still open with last day planned for March 24th. A fun last day is planned. Doug invited patrollers from other hill so come over and have possible competitions. Hal is going to do some sled 360's . Bittersweet had a good year and is planning some expansion projects. One thing in planning is extending Chair 6 on the advanced hill (hawthorn) both up and down making the hill longer and taller. Senior OEC exam was

hosted by Bittersweet and it was very successful with all candidates passing. Recruiting for OEC class is going well. Hill training was just finished with 11 candidates passing. Last day is Saturday, Management is trying to make it a fun last day.

- e. Timber Ridge Jason Kovacs (submitted by Sue Brann)
Closed February 25th. Owners were very happy with the season even though it seemed short. Disregard rumors going around about the hill Closing, they are planning on opening next season. Region Banquet is being held at Timber Ridge so register.

- f. West MI. Nordic Mike Oliver

Once again, West Michigan Nordic Ski Patrol concludes another excellent year. In what started out as a great snow year and presented problems with several warm-ups in January and February, it turned out to be a great snow year during the various events, which West MI Nordic patrols. Both the White Pines Stampede (Mancelona) and the famous Michigan VASA (Traverse City) were uneventful from the standpoint of medical emergencies. I wish to thank Kevin Barrons, Michael Walenta, and Dan Long for presenting our on-snow and toboggan refresher this past January. Kevin and Michael held the toboggan refresher as well as an on-snow at the Muskegon Winter Sports Complex, and Dan held another on-snow at Crystal. Thanks for all who took part.

2017 was a year of growth as several new individuals decided to join. Now that snow is just about off the ground and the tracks have disappeared, many of our Nordic patrollers become mountain bike patrollers in the off-snow season.

X. Advisor Reports

- a. ARD Pat Livingston

- 1. Instructor Development

- WM1 class is full, Crystal may be having a hybrid class in May.

- 2. OEC Doug Mesara

100% pass rate on OEC-MSP.

Over 50 patrollers worked directly at the event, as patients, helpers, graders or support staff. Thank you to everyone who came to Bittersweet and helped out and to all the trainers at the local patrols. Our success rate is directly related to your hard work.

3 new OEC IT's were appointed. 1 new IT will start training this spring

11 new OEC instructors added this season for a total of 133 in the Region

Jenn Squires will be taking over Senior OEC next year. She attended the Pine Knob Senior test with Doug M and observed how they do things. He noted they had 75 patrollers helping to test 10. We had over 50 testing 7. Between the two that is almost an entire patrol worth of helpers. It was noted how well the senior trainers did in our region and how the candidates were going to different hills to train together. Senior is at Cannonsburg next year.

3. Women's Program – Jackie Bottomley
Was a big success with powder both mornings, 14 women participating.
4. Awards Rog Brands
Awards have been sent in, Very few applications were received. He has some service awards. One person has interest in working awards and Rog is to get together with him.
5. Legal Steffany Dunker
Coming later
6. Safety David Menke
Coming later
7. Web Master - Jon Kelder
Nothing new to report
8. YAP – Maddie Dodson-Garrett

The East Michigan Region hosted an event for Young Adult Patrollers 15-18 and interested youth age 12-15 and had a good turn out with a few from our region attending as well

This event will reoccur annually and will continue to be open to youth and young adult patrollers from the West Michigan Region

I am working on planning a similar event at Caberfae for the West Michigan Region next ski season, more details to come at the May 5 meeting

I will have a program guide for a Jr. Patrol Program (age 12-15) available at the May 5 meeting

There is interest in a YAP Program at Cannonsburg in response to the development of a Jr. Patrol Program at Vail

9. Alumni – Tony Wolfer
no report

b. ARD Chip Knappen

1. Senior Program Sue Brann

Senior Hill Program Update (Kyle Jones)

On February 25, 2018 four alpine, two snowboarders, and one tele patroller(s) pass the Western Michigan Region senior hill test. Despite tough conditions, high winds, and closed lifts these patrollers showed their skills in ski/ride and tobogganing at or above a senior level. Congratulations to the following on their hard work and passing:

Garrett Kaltenbach and Conrad Meekhof from Timber Ridge

Chris Wise from Cannonsburg

Marty Benedict and Jim Tuinier from Bittersweet

Joe Biermacher and Nick Oberst from Crystal

I would like to thank Crystal Mountain and its area management for hosting this event. Thanks too, all the graders, advocates, helpers, and support staff as this was my first year to run this event and we all made it a great success.

The division QA was very pleased with how we ran the test and was glad to see so many highly qualified graders in all three disciplines, alpine, tele, and board for both parts of the test

Sue reported there are 7 new alpine seniors and one new senior patroller (passed aide room module).

2. NSPC Ski School Erica Krol

2 SES were held; section 1- 8 participants, section 3- 16 participants

Womens clinic had 14 in SES and 12 in TES

3 people passed the PSIA level 1 alpine and 2 new level 2 tele

