

**Minutes of 1/13/15 NSP Western Michigan Region Meeting  
Brann's Steakhouse**

Attendees: Kevin Barrons, Michael Oliver, Don Smith, John Donnelley, Martha Nowak, Hal Froot, Greg Hayes, Dan Goldberger, Pat Livingston, Jackie Bottomley, Scott Waddell, Randy Slater, Rog Brands, Sue Brann, Steffany Dunker, Dave & Julie Johnson, Chip Hurley

**Meeting called to order: 6:30PM by Sue Brann**

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve minutes from the October 14, 2014 Region Meeting (Oliver/Brands). Minutes approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Majority of spending so far this year has been on the deposit for the Division meeting in September.
- There was a \$105 fee for an audit from Central Division; standard procedure after a change in Region Director.
- John recommends the Board look at setting a budget for the Division Meeting as the planning team moves forward.
- Money previously allocated for the Women's clinic will not be needed this year as the event is being hosted by the Central Division.

**Section Reports:**

**Section I; Martha Nowak:**

- Special Olympics is taking place on Tuesday January 20 at Timber Ridge and they are in need of additional patrollers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Charlie Coss at [charley.coss@cosscomm.com](mailto:charley.coss@cosscomm.com) for more information.
- The Region Banquet will be held at Bittersweet on May 16, 2015. Anyone interested in helping on the planning committee should contact Martha Nowak at [MTNowak@Charter.Net](mailto:MTNowak@Charter.Net)

**Section II; Kevin Barrons:**

- No Report

**Section III; Scott Waddell:**

- Snow & Cold in Northern Michigan. Crystal is finally 100% open.

**Patrol Reports:**

**Crystal Mountain:**

- Two skier cross courses and another terrain park are open. Two new slopes this year.
- Signed off two new alpine patrollers on Sunday. Eight candidates currently in training.
- Crystal is hosting a Ski Enhancement Seminar on February 7 and a Toboggan Enhancement Seminar on February 8. Cost for the SES is \$30 and interested parties should contact Kevin Fultz. Those interested in the TES should contact Erica Kroll.
- Crystal will host the Senior Hill Test on February 22, 2015.

**Caberfae:**

- No Report

**Cannonsburg:**

- The area is about 2/3rds open, two new runs were developed this year between triple and quad.
- The patrol is wrapping up refreshers. Spent more time and attention to details this year.
- Eight candidates currently going through hill training.
- The basic hill test will be February 15, 2015.
- Cannonsburg is offering Women's Day again this year with lessons and daycare. Check [cannonsburg.com](http://cannonsburg.com) for more information.

**Pando:**

- TES Scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. Randy was wondering if certificates could be available the same night. Anyone interested in attending needs to contact Randy Slater and Erica Kroll as soon as possible.

**Bittersweet:**

- 10 candidates currently going through hill training.
- The kitchen area has been expanded with a detailed menu this year.
- Currently planning for Senior OEC with five candidates training for the test.
- The SROEC Clinic will be held on February 1 and the final evaluation will be March 1 at Bittersweet.
- Doug Haase is the SROEC Instructor of Record this year and will be looking for volunteers to work as graders, patients, and helpers. There could potentially be 12-14 individuals going through the SROEC Clinic on February 1. Contact Doug at [atcsinc@aol.com](mailto:atcsinc@aol.com) if you are interested in helping.

**Timber Ridge:**

- Opened December 26 and the area is almost 100% open.
- Seven candidates training for the basic hill test.

**WM Nordic:**

- The first Nordic clinic scheduled for December 13 was cancelled due to lack of snow. January 10-11 a second clinic/workshop was held at Cross Country Ski Headquarters in Roscommon.
- This year Nordic patrollers for both the White Pine Stampede and the Vasa will be equipped with the same unidirectional radio communications used at alpine areas.
- The next clinic will be held February 22 at Pigeon Creek.
- A basic and senior Nordic ski test is planned for March 14 at Crystal Mountain.

**Region Advisor Reports:****ARD: Pat Livingston**

- Instructor Development:** Typically we do not hold Instructor Development events during the season. Five people are interested in a winter class. Pat will wait another week before settling on a date. Sue noted Instructor Development is a senior elective.
- Elections:** Martha received two nominations for the WMI Section Chief position. No other nominations were received so Martha Nowak will continue as the WMI Section Chief.

- iii. **OEC:** Section I is training a new IOR for the OEC course this year. Division is having conferences with ROA's gathering feedback and comments. Hal commented that the codes to access the online information from Pierson are all used up.
- iv. **Awards:** All awards must be submitted to Rog by March 1, 2015. Awards must be in Word document form only. Rog sent information to each of the patrol reps regarding the award process and asked for information to be distributed to all patrollers. This year, award applications will only require the signature of the Region Director.

It was suggested that the Region look into creating a database system or form to encourage members to track their patrol related activities. This information is required for the awards application and is often difficult to obtain.

- v. **Legal:** Steffany has not received information on what needs to be done. Please contact Steffany at [steffanydunker@gmail.com](mailto:steffanydunker@gmail.com) with any legal issues or concerns.

Don Smith suggested the Region look into the legal requirements or liability related to having mountain bike patrols that patrol events during the summer. He noted Cannonsburg is working to develop a Mountain Bike Patrol this summer.

#### **ARD: Sue Brann**

- i. **Alpine Proficiency:** The Senior Hill Test will be held at Crystal on February 22. Applications were due on January 1. Nine people submitted applications. All candidates must attend the Senior Hill Clinic on January 25 at Caberfae. Sue is looking for more on hill evaluators to assist with skiing and tobogganing. Helpers will need to attend the calibration clinic on January 24.

Chip Hurley suggested patrols encourage candidates to attend the STW in December so they get a feel for their skills before the January 1 sign up deadline.

Senior Hill Skills sign off sheets must be submitted to Sue by February 10. The Senior Manual is available from the Central Division website.

Crystal Mountain will welcome Senior Hill Candidates to train at their area on Fridays or Sundays depending on the area schedule. Contact Scott Waddell for more information.

- ii. **Senior Hill Coordinator:** Sue needs course completion records for all the electives of the Senior Candidates. If you are an IOR, please copy Sue when submitting your course completion records to National.
- iii. **NSPC Ski School:** SES Scheduled for February 7 at Crystal. TES February 8 at Crystal. These events are open to the Region. Contact Kevin Fultz or Erica Kroll for more information. Cost of the SES is \$30 to pay for PSIA instructors.
- iv. **OET:** A Region Ski Trainers workshop was held at Caberfae on Sunday January 11 with seven toboggan trainers. Scott was discouraged with attendance and urged PD's to encourage all instructors to attend in order to consistently prepare our Senior Hill Candidates around the Region.

- v. **CERTIFIED:** Sunday January 18 Nubs Nob is hosting a recertification clinic. February 13 Mt. Brighton is hosting a Certified testing event that will evaluate at least three different modules. Hal commented the bulk of new candidates are coming from Ohio and encouraged more participation from Western Michigan Region Patrollers.

Hal shared information on the OEC Enhancement Seminars at Cannonsburg. These courses are available for anyone looking to improve their OEC skills. Contact Hal for more information. Attending two OEC Enhancement Seminars counts as one Senior Elective.

- vi. **Alpine Snowboard:** Currently no snowboard advisor appointed.
- vii. **MTR & Avalanche:** Michael Walenta will begin to schedule MTR & Avalanche courses shortly. If you have patrollers interested in the programs have them contact Michael. Michael and Hal will be teaching a Low Angle Rescue Course at Cannonsburg on Sunday January 25. If you would like a similar program at your area, please get in touch with Michael at [walentam@gvsu.edu](mailto:walentam@gvsu.edu) or 616-240-6576.

#### **Old Business:**

- None

#### **New Business:**

- John Donnelly discussed an email regarding patrol asset reporting that was sent out by mistake. John noted the asset report is not required at this time but he asked for patrol treasurers and patrol representatives to review the asset reporting requirements and provide feedback to him.
- Division Meeting Update: Lourie Hurly is leading a committee of patrollers to plan the fall Central Division Meeting. The meeting will be held September 11-13, 2015 in Grand Rapids. Please share the information on this event to the patrollers and encourage as many people to attend as possible. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn- Downtown Grand Rapids and room reservations will be \$135 per night with tax. The committee is working on additional plans and will be looking at corporate sponsorship opportunities to help offset costs. Look to future Blue & Gold Newsletters for more information.
- Sue encouraged every Patrol Director to print and post copies of the Blue and Gold Newsletter and the Region Calendar in their patrol rooms. Region advisors have been sending out a lot of useful information in the Blue & Gold and we need to make sure our members are seeing it.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2015 Location TBD.

**Motion To Adjourn meeting (Oliver/Brands) Motion Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.**