

Sundown Ski Patrol Board of Directors Minutes Regular Meeting: March 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. K. Kostuk, Patrol Director presiding.

Present Board Members: K Kostuk, S. Dawick, L. Boyd, N. Wardrop, B. Garfield, M. Loparco, T. Kim, T. Philpin, R. DeNegre, B. Polio, C. Warren

Absent: J. Scarcella

Non-members: J. Barter, H. Downs, C. Boyd

K. Kostuk, Patrol Director: Recently there have been two incidents where patrollers had to rescue people who slid off the side of Satan's Stairway. No patients were seriously injured. It was a difficult area for our patrollers to reach. In both cases, due to the terrain and bulletproof icy conditions it took an hour to safely complete transport of the patients. No patrollers were injured. N. Bird has sent e-mails with detailed notes on the incidents. H. Downs, hill captain commented, the crampons were difficult to secure due to the pitch and icy conditions. It was fortuitous several additional patrollers had signed on for the shift. H. Downs gave thanks for their contribution. H. Downs reported ropes were used to safely extricate the patient. K. Kostuk thanked H. Downs for her efforts. K. Kostuk has spoken to management about the incidents. Management expressed, if equipment and resources are needed up the mountain they are willing to assist. K. Kostuk communicated to management the need for more fencing on the sides of stairway. Management responded fencing will be provided depending on the conditions. C. Boyd commented the crampons the patrol has in stock are outdated and recommended all patrollers be required to carry micro spikes in their pack. He has seen many incidents where micro spikes would be useful. C. Boyd stated headlamps and micro spikes are both a stipend item. The preferred brand of micro-spikes, Kahtolla, costs about \$70.00. C. Boyd stressed the importance of purchasing the right size micro spikes. L. Boyd stated she has two sets of micro spikes, one for hiking boots and one for ski boots. They are not a universal fit. C. Boyd suggested people who have micro spikes bring them to the September Sundown Ski Patrol Annual meeting. People who need to purchase micro spikes can bring their ski boots then try on to determine the correct size for ordering. K. Kostuk suggested we contact the manufacturer to obtain a bulk order discount. B. Garfield stated there was an incident on Saturday, February 29, where a young man skied off the side of Stinger. They were able to use a backboard and webbing to extricate him. No serious injuries sustained. B. Garfield inquired about the patrol purchasing a stokes basket and ice screws. C. Boyd stated it would be preferred a backboard be utilized with webbing. He additionally emphasized the importance of knowing the access to all the trails. C. Boyd noted the best way to move the patient is on the backboard with secured with ropes to trees. C. Boyd stated Ice Screws are expensive and depending on the conditions and consistency of the snow, various lengths are needed to hold the load. C. Boyd reinforced that low angle rescues need to be practiced because all patrollers need to be proficient. T. Philpin mentioned the practice of always returning the rope bag, which there are two of, to the top of the mountain is very important. K. Kostuk addressed the B-fencing on Gunbarrel. It can be accessed through mid-station where the two poles are located. They can be moved or the fencing can be slid up. H. Downs mentioned the drill is not a good fixture to use as an anchor. T. Philpin would like to see two policies established. First, patrollers should have micro spikes and headlamps in their pack. Second, a drill is not a safe practice to be uses as an anchor. T. Kim stated he feels the messages K. Kostuk disseminates to the hill captains is an effective means of communication.

Minutes of February 2020 were reviewed; B. Garfield, motion to accept, B. Polio, 2nd. All in favor, motion carries.

S. Dawick, Assistant P.D.: No comments

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Treasurer Report: L. Boyd presented report for January and February 2020. C. Warren, motion to accept, M. Laparco, 2nd, all in favor, motion carries.

The repeaters and NSP Patrollers dues have been paid. NSP dues are \$9200.00 for the Sundown Ski Patrollers. A check was received from Ski Tunes, who participated in the ski swap for their percentage of profits due to the patrol. One of the shops who participated in the swap has cashed their commission check. L. Boyd stated January is the biggest time for the patrol's financial transactions. Amazon Smile donations were \$9.00. T. Kim stated he submitted his volunteer hours to the company he is employed by, Travelers, for donation. J. Sagretta's daughter listed Sundown Ski patrol as a non-profit for a charity event. Sundown Ski Patrol was chosen by her company and awarded a donation of \$1060.00. R. DeNegre volunteered to send a thank you note. L. Boyd reported the change of date for the fiscal year to July 1 to June 30 was accepted by the IRS.

Committee Reports:

- 1. Medical supplies/Oxygen:** B. Martin: Air Gas has been contacted to replace the O2 tanks. The material replacement list is posted outside the equipment room and regularly monitored.
- 2. Toboggans:** N. Bird: Not Present. K. Kostuk stated during conversations with N. Bird a decision was made to move the doghouse from skier's left of Satan's Stairway to skier's right to be more accessible. There has not been enough snow to maintain the location. Management will assist. C. Warren commented he is ready to do the necessary provisions when the mountain is open.
- 3. Radios:** J. Cegelka: Not Present.
- 4. Lift Evacuation:** C. Boyd: C. Boyd noted the harnesses for lift evacuation need to be replaced. K. Kostuk will talk with management about replacing harnesses.
- 5. Nominating Committee:** J. Barter: J. Barter stated there are three patrollers who have expressed interest in taking positions on the steering committee.
- 6. Building Committee:** C. Warren: K. Kostuk stated New Hartford Ambulance has requested that the deck in front of the patrol room be extended 2 feet. The deck is at a point where it is in need of repair. The equipment room floor is also in need of replacement. K. Kostuk will address the needed repairs with management
- 7. Finance Committee:** D. Ohanesian, L. Boyd, R. Coffee, J. Scarcella. Not Present. No Report.
- 8. Equipment:** No Report.
- 9. Food Services:** C. Morris: Not Present. No Report.
- 10. SWAP: B. Garfield:** No comment
- 11. Web Pages:** H. Bender, R. Stevenson: K. Kostuk stated J. Sagretta has been working with the region contacts to update the regional website. He is interested in doing updates to the Sundown Ski Patrol website. K. Kostuk suggested J. Sagretta reach out to H. Bender and R. Stevenson for response. J. Sagretta has ideas for improvements for the substitute request portion of the site.

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12. OEC: N. Wardrop: Final on the Hill OEC Exam is Saturday March 7. Six candidates will be testing. Numerous patrollers have volunteered to help. Young Adult patroller (YAP) seminar is scheduled for March 13 to 16. J. Barter, N. Wardrop and Case Rasmussen (YAP) will be attending. 78 YAP's will be attending.

13. OET: J. Barter: C. Warren and J. Henry have successfully passed their OET Senior testing. J. Henry is a full Alpine Senior. The candidate OET final evaluation was held on Saturday, February 29. Thirteen people tested. Twelve of the thirteen tested passed the OET exam. Four of them are planning to continue with OEC next season. One additional patroller's son is planning to take the OEC class. J. Barter has evaluated seven potential candidates for next year's class. His method of testing includes: taking several runs with prospects to evaluate their skiing ability including sideslip, snowplow and transitions, discussions regarding the time commitments for mountain host or ski patrol, class requirements plus training drills. Five of the seven were successful and qualify for the next year's class. Two were not. Two also said the time commitment would not work for them. J. Barter has informed people who have tested with him there is a limited amount of spaces in the OEC course. L. Boyd inquired if we have documented the procedure for screening prospective candidates for training. J. Barter stated we are in progress of establishing the criteria for the process in order to do pre-screening of candidates. J. Barter is developing a questionnaire to additionally pre-screen candidates. A policy will be documented when the pre-testing is agreed on. K. Kostuk commented a good skier may not necessarily have patroller skills (sideslip, snowplow, etc.) and some skills need to be taught. B. Garfield asked what the cut off point is for number of patrollers is according to management. K. Kostuk replied, management currently does not have a cut off. Management is satisfied with our response to the mountain and appreciates our staff.

14. Legal Advisor: G. Cantwell: Not Present. No Report.

15. Medical Advisor: S. Goldblatt:

16. Scheduling: S. Dawick: Comments in Assistant Patrol Director report.

Old Business:

Challenge OEC Course: R. DeNegre asked what the requirements are for the OEC challenge course. K. Kostuk and N. Wardrop responded the requirements are listed on the NSP website. The Candidates need to be an EMT or Paramedic. All challenge participants are encouraged to attend some of the classes and testing is required. K. Kostuk stated participants in the challenge course need to demonstrate all the skills an OEC Candidate does. Challenge candidates are included in the headcount for training because they will need to participate in the final testing. They must also attend the OET and OEC on the hill training.

T. Kim presented the question if candidates who have completed the mountain host and OET training successfully can run toboggans. J. Barter stated there were several Mountain hosts who wanted to participate in the OET program. Due to the large size of the class, it was not possible this year. The mountain host who did complete the class this year has committed to go through the upcoming OEC class. J. Barter is confident in his ability to run a toboggan but it is not a current policy.

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K. Kostuk stated the incident reports have been completed in more detail since the discussion last month.

T. Philpin is looking for clarification on the relationship we are trying to build with New Hartford Ambulance. K. Kostuk explained we are looking for respect and professionalism between the two organizations. B. Garfield stated both organizations are responsible to bring the patient to the next level of care. L. Boyd questioned the comments in the meeting minutes from February 2020 regarding patient turnover. B. Garfield suggested it would be a good idea to talk with other ski areas to see they interact with ambulance services. M. Loparco stated we need to maintain our quality of standards regardless if the ambulance crew is not interested in the information we provide. All our observations are documented in the incident report. K. Kostuk stated the turnover to the ambulance crew is a higher level of care. J. Barter noted we are looking for the best outcome for the patient.

Comment [NW1]:

Spring Annual Meeting: T. Philpin has spoken with Boulder Ridge Camp Area who is holding the date of Sunday, June 14 for the patrol meeting. They are now looking for a security deposit. L. Boyd commented we need someone to coordinate the event. K. Kostuk will send an e-mail blast out to the patrol looking for a volunteer to run the event.

New Business:

Medical Notice: K. Kostuk stated, Sundown Ski Patrol Medical Advisor, S. Goldblatt has been sent all the information from East Region and NSP with regard to the current COVID 19. In order to be prepared an order has been placed for the N95 masks, protective shields and gowns. Kits will be made for use by patrollers if patients meet the criteria for COVID 19. K. Kostuk will send copies of correspondence he has received from the CDC and NSP medical advisors to the steering committee for review. K. Kostuk read the message sent by M. Mingus, Eastern Region Safety/Medical Advisor regarding COVID 19 protocol.

R. DeNegre made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. B. Polio, 2nd, all in favor, motion carries.

Next steering committee meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancie Wardrop, Secretary