

**EASTERN DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Killington, VT - March 15-16, 2008**



BOD In Attendance (3/15/08):

Rick Hamlin	DD	Meg Smith	SNY
Burt Mitchell	CT	Noel Rios	CNY
John Kane	ME	Peter Neefus	ENY
Trish Watson	WMASS	Gerit Lewisch	EPA
John Shipman	EMARI	Christian Jaquith	NVT
Peter Kaufmann	NH	Terry Randolph	SVT
Don Weaver	WNY	Mike Lord	GV

Henry Williams	Legal Advisor
Rick Knight	CT SC
Ron Ellison	CT

Additional Attendees (3/16/08)

Chris Brodersen	BOD-NJ
Dave Childs	WMASS Student Supervisor
Phil Galka	Avalanche Supervisor
Butch MacQueen	MTR Supervisor

Absent

Steve Schopfer	WAPP
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Mid-winter meeting of the Eastern Division BOD at Killington, VT called to order 7:45 p.m.

Agenda Revisions

- The Finance Committee report will happen Saturday night when Chris Brodersen arrives.
- We will watch the Ski Sentinels DVD tomorrow night.

Registration Process

DD Hamlin reminded the RDs that the registration process has gone back to the old way, RDs get the packets, RDs distribute the packets, they come back to Donna, and then to the National Office. This year members were unhappy because of delay with the registration cards. If your patrols didn't get the packet to Donna until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January they shouldn't be calling the National office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January asking for their registrations.

Donna sends them to each RD in September. You need to get them out ASAP to your patrols. As soon as you get the packages turn them over to your patrols. Donna will check to make sure the applications are correct and the fees are correct. She will not send the application to the National office until all is correct.

### Delegate Review

DD Hamlin offered a reminder that this year we have a requirement to review the voting delegates from all regions to see if the distribution is still acceptable. Since the bylaws were written there have been no large changes. Please let me know if you think there should be changes in the apportionment. Don Weaver (Election Committee) will recommend if the distribution should stay the same or not.

### Files Archives

DD Hamlin asked how many boxes of documents do you think Regions will be bringing to the SOM for archiving. He would like to know so we can tell Dartmouth how large a truck to bring. Anything over seven years goes in a banker's box, labeled and gets sent to archives. Please make a note to yourselves to let Hamlin know before the end of the month how many boxes you'll be delivering. Estimate high.

### FIPS 2009 – Are, Sweden.

DD Hamlin mentioned that the information about the 2009 FIPS Congress is now posted on the Eastern Division Website.

### Eastern Division Student Training Seminar

DD Hamlin reported that there is a lot of interest in the event and it's growing. Along with the experience and the memories, DD Hamlin suggested that it would be nice if they also could get some kind of educational credit for attending the event, such as an enhancement seminar or a senior elective. DD Hamlin asked the RDs to consider this concept and suggested further discussion at the SOM as there are a couple of choices that would fit this event. The key is to make sure that S&T and OEC have input on this and as it falls into their enhancement programs. Discussion ensued:

- Lord – This is world's above an OEC Enhancement Seminar as I know it.
- Hamlin – Does everyone agree that we should head this way? Agreed by all.
- Rios – I think it's a good idea. There are several levels how will that affect the students.
- Hamlin – If they have a registration number they get credit.
- Rios – Some are candidates, haven't finished their OEC.
- Hamlin – If they have a social security number that work. If they are members and have paid dues they can get credit.
- Lewisch – If you hash it out with the OEC and S&T I think it will enhance the Senior Program because they're all so enthusiastic.
- Hamlin – We don't track the students who have been through the program at all. Do they stick with it or not? This way we have course records and can track the students to show why we spend the money on the program. Hopefully next year there will be an additional benefit to attend the seminar.
- Randolph – I have registered the skiing portion as enhancement this year.
- Rios – I can register an OEC Enhancement Seminar tonight online.
- Randolph – In considering this for S&T because we had such a large number I arranged for a PSIA 3 to do the teaching at the skiing clinic so we're doing a clinic with the skiers and riders.

### National Issues

DD Hamlin requested input related to the National office building. We now own 2/3 of the building in Lakewood. One third was sold to ASEA. There is no longer a joint memorandum of

understanding between us. What do the members think of us selling the whole building to them or buying them out?

- Kane – It depends on our needs
- Smith – My patrollers feel that they bought a fair number of bricks in the building and they would be unhappy if we sold it.
- Lewisch – I agree. We should buy it back since the patrollers gave their money for it.
- Hamlin – NSAA, 10th Mountain, and the International Ski Association are also in the building. Generally the consensus is that we buy it.
- Randolph – Why would they agree to sell unless we give them a fortune?
- Lewisch – They are growing and will need more space.
- Hamlin – Tim White wants to do what's right for NSP. If it's a benefit to us, that's what he'll do.
- Watson – Whatever money they make has to cover the move and disruption.
- Neefus – Do whatever is the best for us.
- Watson – As long as it's a sound business decision.
- Rios – I agree.
- Weaver – Best supported as sound business decision.
- Lewisch – It's problematic because there are emotional attachments.
- Rios – My folks would like to get some of the money back we paid for legal fees. It's not problematic but has to be the best decision.
- Williams – A. lot of members have lifetime memberships.
- Mitchell – I've been involved with national finance – whatever makes financial sense is what the organization needs to do ...if selling is proper it's going to be fine. There have been so many changes already it will be OK. Take the bricks out of the foyer if it's an emotional attachment to the NSP not to a building.
- Neefus – I agree with Burt.
- Shipman – Leave it to the Executive Director to make the best decision.
- Hamlin – The good news is that they're asking for our opinion and input.
- Kane – It should be a sound business decision.
- Smith – I have several patrollers who gave money to that and have strong feelings about it. I think we can sell them on moving but must be very careful about it.
- Jaquith –It should be a sound business decision. Thank them for asking.
- Hamlin – There should also be plenty of warning to the members.
- Randolph –It has to be a sound business decision.

### Election and Voter turnout

DD Hamlin reported that Don Weaver (Election Committee) has prepared a report. The EDIV did better than the national average. Don will have some recommendations. CT did very well. GV has refresher stations. We will discuss this tomorrow with Don's report.

- Hamlin – As chair of the Nominating Committee last year – 21 people applied, the bylaws allowed us to put 16 on the ballot. This year we did some things differently. We got good feedback. Do we as Division leadership want to start looking at the candidates and say that the Board has looked at them and recommend the ones we think would do the best job for the Division? You can vote for whoever you want but as Division leaders this is who we recommend? I sense more members would appreciate it than would think we were trying to direct their votes. All the RD's but Trish were asked by Patrollers who they should vote for.
- Watson – The problem I've got is that it's telling me that no one really has an interest in who they're voting for.

- Hamlin – There are certainly people who don't want to do the homework but many who do. We're not going to make the choice for them.
- Watson – If we tell them who to vote for is that not a block vote?
- Shipman – I was all for ED pointing to those people we felt would do a good job. If other divisions are more proactive then they sway the vote in their favor. They should get out and campaign.
- Mitchell – I read all the bios and marked what I liked but when I got involved with them I thought "no way"...listen to him speak and listen to his real ideas. The rank and file never hears that so they ask us because we've seen them. They ask for helpful hints.
- Smith – I had people ask questions and were happy with what came back. There should be a comparison put together....how long a member, what do they instruct, what is their profession. A picture would help.
- Hamlin – The question at hand is do we provide guidance or continue to only respond if asked?
- Rios – I really think the patrollers want guidance. I told folks to look at the bios of these names. I think we need to endorse.
- Hamlin – On the face of it other divisions say they're not guiding the vote, but they are certainly doing more that we have. Even if we endorse candidates it doesn't mean that people can't go out and look and make up their own minds.
- Shipman – Unless we're really proactive and recommend who we think are the best people to represent us on the Board we're going to be on the losing end of this.
- Hamlin – Don Weaver will give the report and then we can revisit this so when we get to the Fall Officers Meeting (perhaps at the SOM). If we're going to support someone I want to be right up front with it. I think the members deserve some guidance especially about re-electing Board Members who are running again.

### OEC 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

DD Hamlin provided a quick update on OEC 5<sup>th</sup> edition – it's slowly starting to speed up. There are two parts of the debate. The EMS world folks want to model after EMS. The other side is that EMS is great but we need to look at a worldwide approach. Don't spend all that money to duplicate an EMS book. Let's look at what folks around the world are doing and include it, let's not limit ourselves to the EMS world. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition is planned to be out in 2010. Right now they're scrambling to get things underway. They want to get it out before they need to reprint the 4<sup>th</sup> edition. We may go elsewhere for the 5<sup>th</sup> edition printing. As more happens I'll let you know. Two surveys are out now – one for patrollers who have taken the OEC course and another for OEC instructors/IT's..

- Smith – I had a problem with the questionnaire. The first question was flawed. Many of our members aren't wedded to the OEC book the way patrollers who took the OEC course are.
- Jaquith – We can't alienate EMS since we need to transfer our folks to the EMS system.

### Retention

DD Hamlin reported that he has been discussing a proposal regarding member categories. Right now we have classifications that go student, candidate, auxiliary, patroller, senior patroller, certified patroller with Nordic/alpine branches of the tree. As the population ages and I go from a certified patroller down I have a choice. I can be auxiliary or I can leave. No one has been too happy with the term auxiliary. My proposal is to get rid of the term auxiliary so you are either a candidate or a patroller. When you get through the OEC course you are an OEC technician. When you are assigned to mountain you are a candidate. When you finish local OEC training you are a patroller (you can't transport). Once your sled training is done

you're either an Alpine or a Nordic patroller. Once you put "Alpine" in front of it that would designate you as a sled hauler. It's easier to then go from certified patroller to patroller as you stop pulling sleds. Can we move and shift away from auxiliary and call everyone patrollers? The board will have to act on pages and pages where auxiliary appears in the P&P. There are two models. One, old patrollers are venerated and treated as huge resources. They are given the respect of being patrollers and all the talent, history, and advice are kept. At other mountains you are as good as the last sled you hauled. If you can't haul a sled, hit the road.

Motion:

- Lord – I make a motion that we accept Hamlin's proposal to change the classification of auxiliary to patroller
- Smith – Second.
- Hamlin – I'll ask the board to approve the concept. My goal is to get them to accept that piece then I'll do the work to get it to the June meeting.

Discussion:

- Rios – In the definition in the manual the auxiliary doesn't wear a cross. The can ski around but don't run sleds.
- Hamlin – The split will be simple – if you transport you will be an Alpine or Nordic Patroller, if you don't transport you are a Patroller.
- Lord – From a risk management standpoint auxiliaries just by their nature, the insurance companies want them off the hill.
- Smith – We could also ease some of our Patrollers into mountain host programs.
- Hamlin – The National Office is pushing the mountain host program and have gotten a lot of response recently.
- Jaquith – You might also be able to back up the program with some data. How many are we losing when they can't run sleds?
- Hamlin – Let's call the vote for the motion Mike Lord made. Ayes have it unanimously.

Hamlin – My goal is to wrap up in the next hour. We'll leave the Finance Committee for tomorrow. Let's plow through as many committee reports as we can.

### S&T – Terry Randolph

I have two pieces of info. The committee met in December in conjunction with the steering committee. We reviewed extensively the Senior Continuing Education component. All 15 Regions were polled with a questionnaire: 1. was it being administered, and 2. was there a record being kept? When all the results were in, by and large most of the Division is not doing continuing senior education for S&T. There is no requirement from National to keep records. We are coming forward with a recommendation in April to discontinue the program. Make it grow or get rid of it. The preference is to kill it.

The second issue has to do with running the toboggan outside the handles. We are searching for a manufacturer who approves of running outside. The largest supplier says they do not support it. ED is only division that currently operates outside. It is not discussed in our National transportation manual. No pictures, no discussion. Our new S&T Supervisor may have some impact on that. The transportation manual is going to change and have photos and detail. We are going out to the manufacturers that we are in search of a toboggan with these specs and we want to operate outside the handles.

- Hamlin – I would like to spend the money to buy one sled for the Division to become a training sled that the manufacturer supports running outside of the handles

- Randolph – The next issue of the transportation manual should be sent to the manufacturers telling them we're looking for an official sponsor.

There are at least two other sleds other than the Cascade, the CAT (blue) and the Traverse (yellow). The CAT is wider and more stable – a Canadian made sled. Traverse has a built in brake. Let's buy one of these so Patrollers can get their hands on them. Let's put it in the budget and put ED on them and give folks exposure to them. It will probably run \$1500. Let's get a stripped down, basic model and ask delegates if they want to vote it into the budget. Terry will put it in his budget. The Program Supervisor will have no problem doing it. Maybe a manufacturer will loan one to us.

#### Nominations & Elections – Don Weaver (Reports attached)

What got all this discussion beginning was the percentage of voting in the last National Board election. I'm assuming all of you have looked at the report.

- Weaver – A high percentage of those who voted liked the process. Even if there was too much material, the Votenet system was good. CT and GV had a computer at a station for voting at refreshers.
- Hamlin – The Election Committee should set up someone in each Region to contact if patrollers have difficulty voting. Regions should get information to Don to feed back to National.
- Weaver – I am disturbed that some patrollers felt disenfranchised because they couldn't vote.
- Hamlin – From now on all must have an email address in order to vote.
- Hamlin – Do we or do we not as a Board make recommendations? I think we should open it to all the delegates at the SOM to discuss this issue.
- Weaver – There is one more part to my report. I am constantly trying to keep the election roster up to date (hand out).
- Hamlin – Before next Friday you all need to get back to Don to update your delegate list. Also would everyone list their alternate RD's when you the send it in.

#### Bylaws Committee – Henry Williams

Nothing has been submitted to Rick Hamlin as of this date with regard to proposed by-law changes. We need to address the sunset clause this year on distribution of delegates.

- Williams – Does it need to be stated that the Election Committee chosen by the Region Director be broadly representative and not just from one patrol? All RD's thought it was clear and didn't need to be codified. We don't need a bylaws change. The sunset has to do with have we got the appropriate number of delegates for our members in each Region? Currently bylaws specify that the number of delegates will be what we had in place in April 2004. Bylaws say we will not change the number but we will review in 2008. Do we need to change that? Discussion will be had at the SOM. There are two choices let the clause sunset or propose a bylaws change to propose we look at it again in 2012. Send any proposed bylaws changes to Bill Cline (ED Asst. Legal Advisor) and Rick Hamlin.

#### Legal & Risk Management Committee – Henry Williams

Talked about the risk management forum in December. Do we need to customize the release form for different states? One legal advisor thinks we should customize – all others thought it should be one form with addendums for states. It has to be short, one page, and in 12-point type, written in English clearly describing what risk is involved.

#### Public Relations/Marketing – John Shipman (Report attached)

PR Committee was tasked with what's next. Have submitted a \$2,500 budget for whatever items are voted for. Shipman showed samples of proposed items. At ski and snowboard show how do you attract the 200 out of 25,000 who are interested in NSP? Tried to have something to give people who were interested, something they could walk away with. The item we pick will depend on what we're willing to spend.

- Hamlin – Canadian Ski Patrol has a working logo and a marketing logo. We might want to think about that.
- Shipman – We want direction and input on items.
- Hamlin – Budget of \$2,500 is a good number based on what we've done in the past. Does everyone agree?
- Lord – How much do you see giving away at the show and how much should we put out to the Region for sale?
- Shipman – I think that a tri-fold is very important. The small decal has a lot of value to put on a car for a long period of time. It's not very expensive.
- Lewisch – Of the \$2,500 we should earmark \$900-\$1,000 to give out at the show and sell the rest to recoup the cost.
- Neefus – Bob Hamilton (SNY) has a display booth packed up that they use at Hunter each year that needs some repair.
- Hamlin – It's expensive to refit maybe we should just retire it.
- Smith – There's another ski show in NJ we should be at.

Discussion on Hunter Mountain Day followed. Rick Hamlin wants to see if we can do something about the participation. It's on a very bad day. John Shipman thanked everyone for their cooperation at this year's Student Training Seminar.

Trish Watson – Motion to recess for the evening, Meg Smith – Second.  
Meeting in recess until Saturday by unanimous vote.

Meeting reconvened on Saturday, March 16, 2008 at 7:15 pm.

There is a request from the MTR and Avalanche Supervisors to take their report first so they can go run some programs for the students.

#### Avalanche Committee – Meg Smith

The positive – Phil Galka (Avalanche Supervisor) is getting an instructor/trainer for each region. We are looking for new instructors and there are two new region advisors. We will see the fruits of his labors at the meeting in the fall.

Negative part – we understand that the National Avalanche Committee is going to up the ante for some of the courses because of the terrain. This may mean more travel and cost.

Galka – There are many avalanche programs, not just ours, and we are working on trying to have an equal level for reciprocity. Level 1 for professional level has to be in serious avalanche terrain. To meet the objective the steering committee said we need the mountains that meet the criteria at the table. We will have a good report for National when they ask us if our program meets their criteria.

- Smith – We have places that qualify but the driving distance is great and some could be in Colorado instead in fewer hours.
- Hamlin – We definitely have places that meet their requirements. If you think there is some benefit to sending people out west I will contact the RMD Director and ask if we can send some folks out, at their own expense.

- Galka – The success story is in getting new instructors. Students who are outstanding get recruited by making an avalanche scholarship to send to Level II. I will talk to anyone about that mechanism.

#### MTR – Burt Mitchell

Sent out a letter saying maybe we'll change the requirements for instructors

- MacQueen – See attached MTR Proposed Action Plan. With a minimum of effort we could qualify new MTR instructors. It is going to require that a number two instructor always back up an IOR.
- Mitchell – We will hold an MTR II to make instructors in April to replace the one that was cancelled. The mentoring program is superb but it doesn't guarantee that instructors maintain their incoming quality.
- MacQueen – We need to teach our patrollers to function under the ICS system.
- Mitchell – All these programs, the responsibility in any region falls on the number one person, the Region Director. Without that person supporting it the program goes nowhere. That's the same for all our programs. Region Directors must support all programs. Nordic Master is up and running and we have three people taking it. There will be an update at the SOM.

#### OEC – Mike Lord

We need to address delinquent lists. There seems to be a registration problem. Patrol Directors need to look at the records when they come in. They are the only ones who can change the delinquent status online. The devil is in the details. RD's must make sure it's being done. After the refresher records are in, in January we should go after the records and address the problem. RD's and PD's need to know that this is an important thing that needs to be fixed.

- Hamlin – We can no longer wait to be told who is delinquent, we need to be more proactive.
- Lord – We'll get a list in January and distribute to the ROA's and deal with it. We need to make sure that the records go through and are accurate.
- Lord – Can we use EDSTS as an OEC Enhancement? Devarney said probably not for this year since it wasn't planned to be. Lord told Devarney to plan it to be one for next year.

#### Instructor Development – Chris Jaquith

There was no prepared report since Flo Rutherford injured her knee. How is the new handbook coming? The committee in depth isn't running yet. IOR's may need more training/networks/refreshers? Is another level required? Make it something new in the handbook. Do a poll for instructor pages on the website. Handbook is dated and developing into a more online kind of thing. We don't have a timeline on this. Flo did the homework on the upcoming courses but I don't have it. Handbook probably a year away.

Discussion followed about how many students had to be in any given course (ID/OEC/EMM). Differing opinions were voiced and Rick Hamlin said we should deliver courses if needed and not hold off because of number limits. Mike Lord would like Rick Hamlin to issue a statement of policy stating we can deliver programs to any number of students.

- Jaquith – CD classes take even more energy than the other classes. I'm not sure the 1 to 6 ratio is great. In a smaller group there is more attention paid. ID instructor class (Phase II) is that you need to teach all the modules of the ID class (all the chapters).
- Terry – I raised this issue a year ago. I can't find any logic in them teaching every element for validation. We don't do it in any other discipline that I know of. I think we are doing ourselves a great disservice. I went through this with my new ID instructor and I got an ID

advisor that came in with superior skills. We really need to look at this rule and find out where it comes from.

- Hamlin – I'll come back to you on this at the SOM in April. We'll have a chat then.

#### Long Range Planning – Peter Kaufman

A quick poll using past records from Student Training Seminars show that of the winners 37% are still patrolling, 63% are not. We will try to get more information related to this issue.

#### Medical – Gerit Lewisch

Sent an email to all PD's asking for the injury rate of their patrollers in the last five years. They wanted to know why I wanted the information. Some are not willing to give the information. We want to know what we can do to reduce our member injury rate. I had risk managers on the phone and sending email telling me they didn't want to give me records. How can we get the numbers? The Patrollers Cross came about seven or eight years ago. Can we go to the awards records? I don't need names, just the patrol and the kind of injury. I'll contact Bill Boulter and see if I can get the information. Could we contact all our patrollers with a survey and ask them.

#### Trail Sweep – John Kane (Report attached)

A poll of the BOD asking if we should still produce *Trail Sweep* as a hard copy produced a unanimous "yes." No one feels we should stop issuing as a paper document. Should we get advertising? Again the answer was "yes." Laura Tucker stated that she felt that selling advertising should be a new job and not added to her responsibilities as editor. Rick Hamlin said the Marketing Committee should be tasked to investigate advertisements in *Trail Sweep*. John Shipman will contact Steve Schopfer to describe this concept.

#### Senior Committee – Trish Watson

I got a copy of the old newsprint issue of the Senior Manual. We can't put it online without a web resource. I'll get the text together and ship it to each program. They can vet it, edit it, and get it back to me. Once we have the text we'll take the next step to publish something more pleasing. Who vets it? Send S&T to S&T Chair/ Terry Randolph; he will ship it to his folks/ EMM to Mike Lord, etc. I can start with pieces by the beginning of the summer. Hope to have all chapters written and vetted within a year.

#### World Wide Web Committee – no report

#### Finance Committee – Chris Brodersen (Report attached)

Jeff Barcus would like to give his warm heartfelt thank you for all of the budgets coming in using the same template. It reduced his workload significantly. Thanks to Rick Knight for the amended budgets. Discussion followed regarding programs needing to address their variances (see report). Chris asked that each RD go back to your supervisors to explain the variance in the numbers so we can get a more accurate budget for the SOM. Chris needs to know before the end of March so that the committee has time to put it together.

Discussion of mileage analysis and reimbursement rate. Current reimbursement is \$.20/mile Finance Committee should make a recommendation of what the proper reimbursement rate should be.

A five minute break was called to wish Chris Jaquith a Happy Birthday.

Rick Hamlin –As I've been reporting to you the Division has been involved with the production of Ski Sentinels. Rick Moulton did a great job telling the story of the National Ski Patrol. He captured the special thread that holds us all together. The good news is that the New England Ski Museum has agreed to partner with us to provide these DVD's to the National Office to sell to Patrollers.

Neefus - Motion to adjourn. Jaquith – Second.  
Meeting Adjourned 10:38