 

**2016-2017 Season Eastern Division MTR Program Report**

Eastern Division Spring Officers Meeting

MTR Highlights 2016-2017 Season:

* 17 courses delivered. Approximately 219 students and 109 instructors took part.
* The National MTR committee comprised of all NSP Division MTR Program Supervisors under the leadership of the NSP MTR Program Supervisor, Myron Allen, met in June 2016 to finalize the MTR Instructors Manual which was published in November. Committee conference calls were held on a regular basis.
* MTR-E (Best Practices in Chair Lift Evacuation) This was a visionary concept and extremely successful seminar held in September and hosted by Ski Butternut, and the Barrington Fire Academy, MA. It was organized by Chris Cruz and David Childs of the Eastern Massachusetts Region. This program was geared toward Area and Patrol Management; involved a panel discussion and field demonstration utilizing MTR instructors, while staying within the guidelines of terrain and safety as dictated by current NSP MTR Policies and the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The success of this program was primarily due to the leadership provided by Chris Cruz and the talent of the team of about 12 instructors. Fifty participants attended across the Eastern Division.
* AMN (Tri-Advisory) Conference was held at Valley Forge, PA on September 16-18, 2016. This highly successful conference/instructor continuing education seminar, included a ceremonial signing of the Joint Memorandum of Understanding between the National Ski Patrol and the National Park Service.
* Leveraged resources while reducing costs:
  + Ran MTR 2 classroom session concurrently with a Senior Nordic S&T Evaluation. These two separate programs operated out of the same facility and even shared some instructors. (Highland Forest, Central NY Region)
  + Conducted the MTR module of Nordic Master concurrent with the Nordic Senior / MTR 2 Indoor Session. (Mary MacQueen successfully completed this by conducting a solo night-time search and rescue. This also took place held at Highland Forest.)
  + Reduced cost by running an MTR 1 concurrent with MTR 2, and carried forward 2 students from previous year to successful completion of MTR 2. (Genesee Valley Region)
* We clarified and simplified the minimum avalanche training requirement for MTR 2. It now is Level 1, Module 1. Module 2 and 3 can be added as a requirement on a Division basis, especially if the student is bound to be a SAR field team member in avalanche terrain. Likewise Avi Level 2 can be added if the Student is expected to be a field team leader and make decisions affecting the safety of others in Avalanche terrain. The problem of developing Avi L1 instructors in Divisions and Regions where avalanche terrain is not easily accessible remains a problem. Solutions are underway and may involve assistance from the MTR program.
* Steve Devine, Patrick Haughton, Chris Mazza and Rob Schmidt, began work to develop a MTR-C course for low angle rescue best practices for Alpine Ski Patrollers. We hope to roll this out next season
* Steve Devine and Dave Childs began work to create a home-pre-study program with knowledge reviews for the MTR 1 program. The goal is to reduce lecture time and increase hands-on and field time during the face-to-face portion of the MTR 1 class. I raised this with the National MTR Program Director, Myron Allen, who endorses this effort. We hope to test this during an MTR 1 class at the end of the summer and roll it out at AMN in September.
* I reached out to all instructors and am assembling a small group who will assist me in keeping the MTR Program Eastern Division Web Page current and fresh.

MTR Lowlights 2016-2017 Season:

* The MTR Challenge was cancelled due to lack of pre-registered participants. Weather factors may have also contributed to the situation.
* The Nordic Fest was cancelled due to unfavorable weather conditions in the weeks prior. Two MTR courses were cancelled that were scheduled to occur during this event.
* The MTR program was informed that due to changes in the YAP schedule, MTR support for Saturday night would not be needed. We cancelled work on our planned program.

MTR Program Staff:

Over the past year I have worked to become familiar with all MTR Instructors, Instructor Trainers (IT) and Region Administrators (RA) many of whom I already knew from prior events. In the Eastern Division we now have 63 MTR instructors plus 20 MTR Instructor Trainers. We now have MTR Region Advisiors in place in each of the 15 regions and approximately 12 active instructors in training.

The Southern New York Region, under the capable and involved leadership of RD Michael McGinnis, now has a new MTR Region Advisor, Brett Gehrke. We are also working closely together to identify two or three instructor candidates for SNY, who will be active in MTR course delivery and instructor mentoring during the 2017-2018 season.

Maine has only one MTR instructor, Sue Wickson, who is also the RA. Effort will be made to mentor instructors from a pool of very experienced and qualified patrollers in Maine. Locally, we see neighboring regions often working together to share instructor resources and joint program delivery.

Courses and Program Delivery:

The following programs were delivered (so far) in the 2016 – 2017 Season.

|  |  |
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| Number of Events | Course Name |
| 4 | Instructor Continuing Education Clinic – MTR |
| 3 | MTR-Enhancement Seminar |
| 8 | Mountain Travel and Rescue Level 1 |
| 2 | Mountain Travel and Rescue Level 2 |

In total, these courses included participation of approximately 219 participants and 109 instructors.

The new National computer system works well terms of course creation, but it is very cumbersome for students who must pre-register in order to take a course especially if they are not already NSP members. We will resolve this in the coming season by putting courses for the upcoming season on the schedule by the end of each spring and having IOR’s bring tablets or laptops to courses so those students who did not pre-register can register when they arrive and sign in. The computer system also lacks the ability to record and report who and how many students completed the course, who are the students who did not complete the course or how many instructors or instructor candidates participated.

We continue to have difficulties reconciling the Eastern Division MTR Program Instructor lists with the lists and credentials maintained on the NSP computer system. The source of the NSP credentials errors has not yet been determined but I have recently made corrections once again.

Ongoing activities and plans for the 2017-2018 Season

* We already have many events scheduled on the calendar including:
  + AMN (Tri-Advisory) September 15-17th at Northfield MA.
  + MTR E Advanced Ropes, September 17th, Northfield, MA
  + MTR 2 Courses, 3- locations, Dates TBD.
    - Genesee Valley (ADK’s or Camp Cutler)
    - Western Appalachia
    - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont Region (TBD)
  + MTR 1 Laurel Highlands July 8-9th
  + MTR 1 course SNY&NJ, Belleayre, November 4-5th other MTR 1 courses TBA
  + MTR Challenge : Gore Mountain Exact Date TBA
* MTR 1 home study module
* MTR C / MTR E Low Angle Rescue for Alpine Ski Areas Course
* MTR, Nordic and AVI joint course, European Division (Switzerland)
* Continued MTR Program support for YAP, Certified and other ED NSP programs.
* Monitor and correct causes for MTR Instructor list discrepancies at National

End of Report

Steven Devine

NSP Eastern Division MTR Program Director