

# NCRC Winter Meeting 2014 Minutes

Walker County Georgia Emergency Operations Center March 15 2014, 9am

## Call to order 9:14am

Roll Call and Acknowledgment of Proxies. All Officers and Coordinators present or proxied.  
Rocky Mountain Region proxied by Rick Speaect.

### **National Coordinator Report**- Appendix A

#### **Officer Reports**

Training Officer- Appendix B

Medical Officer-Appendix C

Diving Officer-Appendix D

Database Report –Appendix O

#### **Regional Coordinator Reports**

Caribbean Region- Appendix E

Central Region- Appendix F

Eastern Region-Appendix G

Northeastern Region-Appendix H

Pacific Northwest Region-Appendix I

Rocky Mountain Region – Appendix J

South Central Region- Appendix K

Southeastern Region- Appendix L

Southwestern Region- Appendix M

Western Region- Appendix N

**2013 Seminar Wrap Up**- Will have account wrapped up by Month end-Finance Officer to followup.

**2014 Seminar Update**- 70 students and 45 instructors registered currently.

**2015 Seminar Update**- Rock Castle Seminar Lodging and camping available, price to be in the \$500 range

**2016 Seminar discussion**- Will be at Mentone, AI regular location at Camp Skyline, Peter and Jane Morgan Site Coordinators approved by the BORC.

**Caribbean Region site proposal**- Shared pictures of site they will be using this year. Looking forward to possible 2017 location.

### **Education Committee Report/Action Items**

South Central moves- Approve Level 1 Rigging as presented SC makes motion

Medical

For

11

Against

0

Abstains

RM

Motion carries

South Central moves –Approve Cave Environment as presented

Western Second  
For  
11  
Against  
0  
Abstains  
RM  
Motion Carries

North East moves -Accept communication Level 1 power point as presented  
Medical Seconds  
For  
11  
Against  
0  
Abstains  
RM  
Motion Carries

South Central move - approve Pilot Mel Eddy-Pumplin's reorganize Level 3 presentation  
South East Seconds  
For  
10  
Against  
0  
Abstain  
RM  
Motion Carries

**Action Item**

The Training Officer will come up with a Policy for what are OCR vs specialized training. If it is an OCR, proposed general guidelines for curriculum (updated from the current guidelines), and if a specialized training, guidelines for reporting what was taught.

**Training Manual Update-** Major revisions have been done and this Fall we would like to present it to the NSS for a hardbound publication.

Training Coordinator moves extend access to the editable version of NCRC textbook for John Punches and Roger Mortimer through winter BORC Meeting 2015  
Diving Seconds  
For  
12  
Motions Carries

**Elections:**

**Interim Training Officer (filling the remainder of Steve Hudson's 2013-2016 term).**  
Running are Rich Pumplin, John Punches, and Rebecca Land-Segrest. Rick Speaect appointed proxy for PNW.  
Medical Asks for a Closed Session

Vote goes to John Panches

**Education Committee Member at Large**

Running are Stephen Bishop, Rick Speaect, NE nominates Rich Pumplin

Rick Speaect passes proxy to Bob Rodgers

Medical asks for a Closed Session

Vote went to Steven Bishop.

**The BORC acknowledges the following online votes that were held since the previous meeting:**

**Online Vote 1**

Western moves: The 2014 BORC meeting is moved to March 15, 2014.

NTC Seconds

For

8

Against

0

Abstains

2

Motion Carried

**Online Vote 2**

Western moves: The NCRC will award two scholarships of \$350 apiece to students attending the 2014 national seminar in Colorado. Central Seconds.

For:

9

Against:

0

Abstains.

0

Motion Carried

**Online Vote 3**

Southwest moves to allow a TOFE level course to be taught at the upcoming Caribbean Regional training seminar. Caribbean Seconds.

For

13

Against

0

Abstains

0

Motion Carried

**Online Vote 4**

Western Moves: Mortimer (Western) moves that John Panches and Roger Mortimer be given full access to the electronic files that make up the NCRC book until 3/15/2014. PNW Seconds

For

11

Against

0

Abstains  
0  
Motion Carried

## Old Business

The 2015 Seminar Site would be looked into a fixed site, as well as the 2014 seminar site. The new NSS headquarters was also proposed.

### **Endowed Scholarship Report**

17 Applications have been received. 2 will be granted. These have been distributed to the Scholarship Selection Committee for a decision.

### **Code of Conduct**

This was sent out to the BORC prior to the meeting.  
South Central moves to approve Code of Conduct as presented  
Rocky Mountain Seconds  
Motion Carries unanimously.  
New Code of Conduct to be posted on the website.

### **Chain of Command**

This was sent out to the BORC prior to the meeting.  
South Central moves to accept Chain of Command as presented.  
South East second.  
PNW makes friendly amendment to remove” The leadership and management within NCRC has historically been very lassisez faire with little structure. As the organization has grown and matured, the need to clearly lay out a Chain of Command and organizational structure has become a necessity.” South Central and South East agree.  
Motion carries unanimously

### **Dealing with IT issues.**

A consolidated server has been suggested. Greg Moore presented a new layout and will look into where the new site would be hosted.

Merge two IT positions. IT and Database manager. Greg Moore and John Evans will work together on that.

## New Business

### **NCRC Budget**

Medical Moves to adopt budget 2014/15 as presented.  
North East Seconds  
Motion carries unanimously

### **Moving Regional Coordinator Positions Voting**

Southeast moves to change the date of elections for Regional Coordinators starting 2015 cycle to Winter BORC meeting  
Central Seconds  
Motions Carries unanimously.

### **NFPA Presence**

Steve Hudson was on the NFPA committee and with his passing we need to have a continued presence there.

Mel Eady-Pumplin and Anmar have been in discussion with this and discussed Mel as our representative. Looking for NCRC to support Mel on the membership in the form of travel support and membership.

Western moves to appoint Mel Eddy Pumplin as our representative to NFPA 1006 with a travel budget and report to BORC activity/ business expenses yearly.

South East seconds

Motion carries unanimously.

### **Curricula Request**

Roger Ellis in South Africa requested the use of our curriculum materials for their training.

Pacific North West moves to deny the request for training information to South Africa.

Diving Seconds

For 9

Against 2

Abstain 0

Motion carries.

### **Policy for Instructors with Lapsed Certification**

North East moves to accept the changes to Instructors with Lapsed Certification as presented

South Central seconds

Motion Carries unanimously

New Policy to be posted to the website

ACTION ITEM. Anmar contact NSS on documentation retention policy.

ACTION ITEM Roger M. and Tim White will be working on the memorial for Steve Hudson

Winter BORC meeting February 21, 2015. Ed Committee would be February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:55pm EDT.**

## **Appendix A**

Paid the bills, chaired the meetings, did general administrative duties.

Participated in the monthly Education Committee conference calls.

Dealt with the aftermath of Steve Hudson's death and appointed a new TC to fill in the remainder of the term until the BORC could vote at the Winter 2014 meeting.

Filed the trice annual BOG reports.

Dealt with numerous requests from the media.

Answered questions from BOG, the general NSS membership, and the public.

# Appendix B

## Report to the Board of Regional Coordinators

March 15, 2014

### Interim Training Coordinator Report

In the aftermath of Steve Hudson's untimely passing, Anmar asked me to step in as interim training coordinator for NCRC until someone could be officially appointed to fill the remainder of Steve's term.

The education committee has prepared three curriculum item revisions and submitted them to the BORC for review and approval. These include:

- Compiling the six Level 1 modules on various aspects of rigging back into a single module. In the process, the curriculum was updated to reflect the changes in philosophy endorsed at our instructor retreat in November of 2011. These included limiting rescue loads to a single person, using Munter belays, and rigging litters in their vertical orientations. The changes were approved by the EC with some comments (minor edits, question about feasibility of multiple instructors responsible for one long module, technical issues with some of the new illustrations that show a munter hitch belay that includes a LRH, rack tie-off on hyperbar vs standard rack)
- Revising the Level 1 Cave Environment module to give it a more rescue-oriented focus. It still describes the cave environment, discusses caver clothing and equipment, and stresses conservation – but it now encourages students to consider how these factors impact cave rescue incidents. Approved by EC with comments about photographer recognition and making PPT notes match LP.
- Minor revisions to the Level 1 Communications PowerPoint presentation to reduce the amount of verbage on the slides. Approved by EC with comments regarding photographer names, question about animation.

In addition, Mel Eady has submitted a plan to the BORC to reorganize Level 3. She is not asking to change content to any significant level, but to rearrange the order of teaching to make the class flow. This will involve revising lesson plans and moving learning objectives around. Anmar and I encourage her to write a proposal to BORC members to ensure she had support for the concept before undertaking the work. We're asking you to determine if her approach is acceptable, and if so to empower her to make the revisions and pilot test them at the upcoming national seminar in Colorado. She will the work with the EC to craft materials to submit for final BORC approval at the 2015 BORC meeting.

The EC has been discussing ways that our regional class approval process could be revised to capture more accurate descriptions of what's being taught. The OCR class description is used in very different manners depending on the region and instructor. Anmar has added an item to the agenda about ways to approach this matter.

Rebecca has offered to conduct an online survey of our instructors to see if we can find what motivates them to stay active with the NCRC.

Level 1 and 2 student tests have been cleaned up and made consistent with new curriculum.

We've noted that some instructors have allowed their NSS membership to lapse. I'll send out a reminder that NSS membership is an ongoing requirement.

The policy on Lapsed instructors needs to be revised. It still refers to an apprentice period, but we no longer do that. I've crafted a revision for your review.

## Appendix C

### Report to the Board of Regional Coordinators, NCRC, March, 2014

Since the last BORC meeting:

I have:

1. Participated in Education Committee phone conferences as scheduling allowed.

In the future, the Medical Coordinator will need to:

1. Continue to update and refine all Medical lectures, continued focusing on Level 2 rewrite. There continue to be suggestions for revisions of Medical/First Aid curriculum, and suggested changes will continue to be reviewed.
2. Review and update as needed the Medical Consideration chapters in the text.
3. Continue to monitor Patient Packaging techniques, learning objectives and testing criteria; work on Level 2 Packaging "advanced" techniques.
4. Assist and evaluate the new Medical elective.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Mosberg  
20444FE

## Appendix D

The sumpdiver rescue calldown list has been updated, except for a few stragglers.

Accidents and incidents since summer convention meeting:

Aug 3 Sliver Glen, free diver died in a small cave

Aug 7 Devil's Eye, diver thought he had a safe gas, but didn't test it, and it was 100% O2, so he toxed.

Oct 9 Open water diver died in a cavern in Volusia Blue, Orange City FL

Nov 14 Rebreather diver was rescued by his buddy in Jackson Blue. His diluent gas had too much O2 for the depth he was diving.

Dec 25 Eagle's Nest, FL. Father and 15 year old son died In a deep cave. Neither were certified cave divers. The son had no certification at all.  
Feb 16 Incident at Peacock Spring. Diver was rescued on the surface, after a suspected M.I.

## Appendix E

## Appendix F

Date of Report: March 13, 2014

### Trainings

Past Orientation to Cave Rescue  
June 2013: Nicholasville, Kentucky  
October 2013: Caving Club at Indiana University  
November 2013: Perryville, Missouri

Future Orientation to Cave Rescue  
June 2014: Troy, Missouri

### Rescues

November 2013: Body Recover for Tim McLain from Binkley Cave System

### Plans / Work in Progress

2015 National Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar  
Park Mammoth Resort; Edmonson County, Kentucky  
Dates TBD

Formalized a new Central Region call-out list

Distribution of Central Region gear cache

Initiated Central Region Facebook Page!

### Problems

None

### Other

- Representative of cave rescue at Indiana Department of Homeland Security SARTAC Committee
- January 2014: Sloans Valley Cave System – tanker truck carrying more than 8,000 gallons fuel overturned and tank was punctured
- New instructor in the Region – Stephen Bishop! Completed IQ in New York 2014.

# Appendix G

## Report to the Board of Regional Coordinators March 15, 2014

### Eastern Region Coordinator Report

- Continuing work on Cave Rescue Standards for Virginia Search & Rescue Council (VASARCO).
- Continuing to work on further development of the new Mitchie Phones.
- Continuing to work with Germany Valley Karst Survey (GVKS) on Action Plan for Cave Rescue.
- Completed ER Staff Fall Meeting during OTR on Sunday September 1, 2013 at OTR site.
- Committee Chair working on Code of Conduct Standards with Southeastern, Northeastern and South Central Regional Coordinators. Will Present Today.
- Working with NCRC IT committee chaired by Greg Moore, on data entry and data management.
- Caving Incident in MD, Collapsed Dig. Team dug themselves out.
- Planning OCR on March 28-30, 2014. Approved by NTC.

# Appendix H

## Northeast Region NCRC

### Winter 2014 Regional Report

March 15, 2014

**Rescues** – Weybridge Cave, Weybridge, VT. September 6 and 7. A caver attempted to down climb the tight opening of the 15 foot pit in the entrance passage of Weybridge Cave. The pit bells out and is not free climbable. The caver fell and injured his ankle, follow cavers called the Weybridge Fire Department for assistance. Following a 14 hour effort involving several NCRC Trained Individuals including 3 Instructors, the caver was extricated.

**Training Held** – Orientation to Cave Rescue Workshop September 28 &29 Weybridge, Vermont. Lead Instructor – Greg Moore. 22 Students attended.

**Plans** – None.

# Appendix I

## Report to the Board of Regional Coordinators March 15, 2014

### PNW Region Coordinator Report

- Taught two OCR classes, customized for Oregon Caves. These classes served NPS staff and area search and rescue personnel. June 9-10, 2013 and August
- Conducted an OCR with basic vertical and SRT segments in conjunction with Deschutes Mountain Rescue, Bend Oregon, June 15-16, 2013.
- Served as an instructor for the 2013 national seminar.
- Provided feedback to the Mountain Rescue Association regarding a proposal by Art Fortini to create a cave rescue certification track within MRA. The MRA decided to hold off on formal efforts for the time being.
- Assisted with revisions to NCRC policies, at request of Steve Hudson
- Assisted with editing of NCRC textbook.
- Wrote chapter on Edge Management for textbook. Working on revisions to several other chapters.
- Served as interim Training Coordinator for NCRC, at Anmar Mirza's request
- Assisted with revisions to NCRC curriculum
- Drafted a budget for NCRC, at the request of Anmar Mirza and Peri Frantz

Upcoming projects include:

- One or two OCRs/Custom classes for Oregon Caves (late spring, early summer)
- A project to map glacier caves on Mount St. Helens (with Eddy Cartaya)
- Development of a rescue/recovery preplan for glacier caves on Mount Hood (with Eddy Cartaya)
- A fall OCR in central Oregon or south central Washington

# Appendix J

## Rocky Mountain Region Report

Submitted by Marc Ohms  
Rocky Mt. Region Coordinator  
Winter 2014

### Training

There was a Small Party class in Utah on June 7-9<sup>th</sup>, and an OCR in Colorado in April. Both were well attended.

Obviously the big event is the upcoming National Seminar in Colorado.

## Rescues-

source from newspapers...

### **Rescuers Free Trapped Man From Idaho Cave**

May 4, 2013

An 18-year-old man is safe after he spent more than two hours trapped in an Idaho cave on Friday.

Austin Wiggins of Buhl, Idaho was rescued by Twin Falls Fire Department and Twin Falls Search and Rescue after he became stuck between two rocks during a hike with friends.

Upon arriving on scene, rescuers quickly got to work and, with the help of a static line, freed the young man after only about 30 minutes .

Wiggins escaped without injury.

### **Three Students Rescued From Wyoming's Wind Cave**

May 15, 2013

Wyoming's Wind Cave

Three students from [Brigham Young University-Idaho](#) were rescued on Mother's Day after they failed to return from a visit to Wyoming's Wind Cave.

The group, Simon Jones, 24 of Rexburg, Idaho, Nathan Smith, 22 of Mesa, Arizona., and Jarin Traxel, 21 of Los Angeles, California, had departed the previous day, Saturday May 11th, on a hike to visit Wind Cave in Darby Canyon.

When they did not return their friend became concerned and contacted authorities early on Sunday morning.

Although there was some initial concern that the party had been caught in an avalanche en route to the cave, prompting an aerial search, Teton County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team soon located evidence the three had entered the cave.

After searching in the cave for about 45 minutes, the missing explorers were located, trapped behind 1.2 meters (four feet) of solid ice, at 3:40 pm.

Two hours later, rescuers had successfully breached the ice and freed the hikers, who were cold, but otherwise uninjured. By 7:30 pm they were back at their vehicle at the trailhead.

Although the report doesn't mention how they got stuck behind the ice, one can deduce that the party had attempted a one-way through trip between the appropriately named Ice Cave and became trapped when the way was blocked.

## Appendix K

### **Recent Events/Activities**

- We hosted a very successful Regional Seminar February 8-15, 2014. We had 23 Level 1 students and 8 Level 2 students. We had students, instructors and staff from all over the US attended. There was a large turnout of students from local rescue agencies.
- The Instructor Recertification Test was offered at the February Regional Seminar. 1 Instructors took the exam.
- We purchased several items for the region, including
  - AA battery adapters for our TP6N field phones
  - On Rope 1 Micro Shaving kit
- There have been several training and orientations for local rescue agencies. These have normally consisted of taking a small number of their members to a local cave providing them the opportunity to learn about caving and discussion responses to rescues.
- The Regional Coordinator participated on the Chain of Command/Code of Conduct committee and assisted with crafting two draft policies.

## Appendix L

### **Southeast Region Coordinator Report**

BORC Winter Meeting - February 2014

#### **Training Events**

- April 2013  
OCR and Small Party class  
ORGT and Chattanooga Grotto

## Rescues

- February 2013  
Crownover Salt Peter Cave, TN  
Caver fall  
Responders: CHCRS and local NCRC trained cavers with BORC attendees
- March 2013 (same day)  
Iron Hoop Cave, AL  
Caver fall; entrance starting to flood on rescue party  
Responders: HCRU and CHCRS  
  
Fox Hole Cave, TN  
Caver fall  
Responders: CHCRS and local NCRC trained cavers
- May 2013  
Ellison's Cave, GA  
Caver fall  
Responders: CHCRS, Walker County, HCRU, Knoxville, local NCRC trained cavers  
SE-NCRC call-out of 100 cavers

## Other

- Presentation at Annual MRA meeting
- NCRC Chain of Command and Code of Conduct Committee

# Appendix M

# Appendix N

Western Region Report  
March 15, 2014

Rescues: None

Trainings: We did a level 1 weeklong in June 2013 at Lava Beds NM with 13 students, several of whom will be doing level 2 in Colorado. OCR in Sequoia National Park in April 2013 for 36 students. In September I created a daylong "Cave Track" for SAREX, a northern California gathering of SAR teams organized by the state office of emergency services. This was day long training that included some portions of the OCR curriculum, some new material, and an afternoon

of litter practice and cave exploration in a Santa Cruz county cave.

I continue to work on the NCRC book. I have administered the NCRC scholarship program. I updated the walk through mock curriculum and gave back to the EC.

I have recently joined the Fresno County SAR team. Several members did the 4/2013 OCR. There is some interest in more cave training. I have a long term hope for creating the capacity for a cave rescue response in the central part of the state. At our annual planning meeting we discussed what the appropriate use is for the local NCRC training cache. We will use it for some non-NCRC trainings if appropriate gear is not available. This still meets the global goals of the NCRC if more people get trained in cave rescue. There is a potential conflict of interest to have a regional coordinator as part of responsible agent team but benefits likely outweigh any risks. We are monitoring the situation.

Plans: OCR in April at Sequoia National Park. I will be attending the national seminar in Colorado.

No problems.

## Appendix O

### **Database Coordinator Report for 2014**

Database Coordinator: Greg D. Moore

Submitted: 2014-03-15

#### **Data breakdown**

15 classes were added to the database.

Most were from 2013, but three were older data submitted by PNW (John Panches) including data going back to 2011.

The database shows 12 classes were taught last year:

- 2 Regionals
- 1 National
- 1 SPR
- 8 OCRs

The most prolific course coordinator was John Panches. (4)

#### **Individual Breakdown**

- 320 non-instructors unique individuals participated in training
- 43 instructors participated in training

## Student Breakdown

- 61 Level 1 students
- 16 Level 2 students
- 4 IQ students
- 6 TOFE Students
- 134 OCR students
- 13 SPR students
- 35 Specialists
- 15 Staff
- 5 DNC – Did not complete

Note: numbers may not add up to 320 as some individuals may have taken a course more than once or may have served in a staff or specialist position in addition to being a student or other role in another class.

## Database contains

- 6255 individuals. Some go as far back as the first National taught
- 316 total courses taught (we have data for 270)
  - 35 Nationals
  - 82 Regionals
  - 185 OCRs
  - 3 SPR
  - 11 “Other”

## Other Updates

Now track course coordinator with each class

Can edit personal records via web-page

Added a search function to search based on radius around Zip Code. Useful for call out situations (find all people in specific radius with specific training).

- Not available from webpage yet.
- Includes “donut” function so can specify an inner and outer radius.

Updated Instructor list on website

Loaded backup of database to shared drive that Anmar and next NTC will have access to

## Future plans

- Explore future commercial options
- Add Radius Search to web page
- Allow more self-service options
- Possible integration with RegOnline

- Try to track down more incomplete data

## Reminders

For all courses except National, please make sure to use spreadsheet available on main NCRC website. This is part of the required paperwork that should be submitted when a course is completed.

If you have questions about how to fill it in, please contact me. By using this, it becomes about a 15 minute process for me to be able to update the database.

NCRC # != NSS # when filling this out. If you don't know your NCRC number (and most don't) please leave it blank. Not all students have NSS Numbers, so we can't use that.

All BORC members should have a login, see me if you don't.

If you have course data that has not been submitted, please talk to me.