

NCRC 2009 Summer Board Meeting Minutes  
Taken by Hester Mallonee  
Compiled by Jess Deli

Call to order: 9:01am <July 22, 2009> JCE

Roll Call

National Coordinator – Anmar Mirza

Training Officer – Becky Jones proxy for Steve Hudson

Medical Officer – Stephen Mosberg present

Diving Officer – Forest Wilson

Caribbean Region – Efrain for Steve Segal

Central Region – Anmar Mirza

Eastern Region – Stephen Mosberg proxy for Jeff Good

Northeastern Region – Don Paquette proxy for John Evans

Pacific Northwestern Region – Don Paquette proxy for John Panches

Rocky Mountain Region – Marc Ohms

Southeastern Region – Bill Putnam proxy for Tim White

Southwestern Region – Tom Bemus proxy for Bob Rogers

Western Region – Marianne Russo proxy for Roger Mortimer

Guest

Peri Frantz, NSS Secretary – Treasurer

A closed session took place.

Winter Meeting minutes approved.

Finance Report

-No financial report from Kathy Welling at this time.

--Kathy was temporarily serving as the NCRC Financial Officer until May. Her time has passed and a successor is needed. Contact Peri Frantz or Anmar. <Don Paquette has taken the position-Anmar 8/6/09>

-Peri's lack of Financial Officer is blocking some necessary actions at the NSS level. This person needs financial and cover background.

-Regional Coordinators need to update their bank account signature cards to include Peri and Gordon Birkheimer as well as any needed regional signatures.

--The independent auditor will not be pleased when the NSS audit is done. Problems with the audit could interfere with the ability to apply for grants.

Database Report

-No database report –

## Officer's Report

- National Coordinator – Anmar Mirza
  - A closed BORC forum has been set up on CaveChat.
  - Information requests from the NSS as well as outside agencies have been fielded.
  
- Training Coordinator – Becky Jones as proxy for Steve Hudson
  - A written report was submitted by Steve Hudson. See written report.
  
- Medical Coordinator – Stephen Mosberg
  - A written report was submitted by Stephen Mosberg. See written report.
  
- Diving Coordinator – Forest Wilson
  - Nothing to report

## Regional Reports

- Caribbean Region - Efrain proxy for Steve Segal
  - Held 4 OCRs and planning another
  - Looking for participants for a regional training during Holy Week.  
Caribbean Region attempts to avoid summer trainings due to hurricane season.
  - Participated in a body recovery of a Brazilian woman in the El Junque Region. It was not a real cave situation, but the body hung up in a cave-like area. Assisted the local emergency department.
  - Puerto Rican government now recognizes them as part of the Puerto Rican Emergency Structure and can therefore utilize government equipment.
  - Steve Segan and Efrain propose 2011 in Puerto Rico.
  
- Central Region – Anmar Mirza
  - Held 2 OCR trainings
  - There was a successful rescue in a regional cave.
  - The Central Region current bank account will be closed and a new one opened for the new Central Region Coordinator.
  
- Eastern Region – Stephen Mosberg proxy for Jeff Good
  - Cancelled Level 1 and Level 2 Week long in West Virginia due to WNS
  - Working on WNS public presentation.
  
- Northeastern Region – Don Paquette proxy for John Evans
  - Rescues and trainings were finished
  - 2009 September for week long
  
- Pacific Northwestern Region – Don Paquette proxy for John Panches

- Helped with OCR at Oregon Caves and worked on off trail resurvey – Hester Mallonee and Aaron S. helped.
- Lechugilla work goes on
- OCR planned

- Rocky Mountain Region – Marc Ohms
  - Marc and Rene both passed IQ!! The Region now has 2 instructors.
  - An OCR will be held this fall.
  - In the fall of 2010, planning a Level 1 and Level 2. To Be Scheduled
  - Last month, a man fell 50 feet into a cave and died. The local SAR contacted Marc and claimed that they were not prepared for cave rescues. Marc explained that NCRC offers trainings, but are not a training team. No other responses so far.

- South Central Region – Tabled

- Southeastern Region – Bill Putnum proxy for Tim White
  - The region is ready to put on an OCR in November augmented with field experiences from Level 1 and Level 2 and will be 4 days long.
  - Several rescues occurred in the Region, but only one “real” cave rescue. All were minor but were callouts with media.

- Southwestern Region – Tom Bemis for Bob Rogers
  - A bulldozer fell into a pit and was hauled out using a highline.
  - No other rescues in the Region.
  - Some interagency trainings were performed.
  - Assisted Texas Region last year in an old case for a body search. An English Reeve was used to check 140 foot mine shaft.

- Western Region – Marianne Russo for Roger Mortimer
  - No rescues
  - Jansen Cardy held an OCR in Hawaii in February.
  - May 19: one day “knots and rigging for vertical cavers” class
    - May redo class in Southern California in the fall
  - Held an OCR
  - 6 of 7 Western Region Instructors made it to Nationals
  - Roger will work a mountain medical event.

Confirmations of BORC actions by email

- Mossberg moves
- Forest seconds
- Motion PASSED

## 2009 National Seminar Update

Anmar

- It was visibly small. Around 43 students but the week went very well. The feedback was positive and it looks like we made \$3500-5000 and were able to pay for instructor's meals.

## 2010 National Seminar Plan

Becky Jones proxy for Steve Hudson

- The proposed site is Mentone, Alabama at Camp Skyline again. The site is great even though the caves and cliffs are a little far, but pretty good.
- The proposed Dates are May 15-22, 2010

## 2011 National Seminar Proposal

Efrain

- Anmar asks Efrain for a proposal by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Efrain says they will try to address concerns with having the seminar during Holy Week and admits they may lose students.

Don Paquette

- Has talked with Gretchen Baker about a weeklong at Great Basin National Park
- No full NCRC weeklong has occurred in the West since 1993. Carlsbad seminar in 2003 was in the Southwestern Region.
- Anmar asks Don to work with Gretchen and get a proposal for November.
- Gretchen is the cave resource person and wildlife biologist.

## Education Committee Report – Becky Jones

No new material needed to be submitted at this time, however there will be some after November.

Online Database – Tabled because DJ Walker and Tricia Daugherty were not present at this time.

## Nominations for BORC/EC Positions

For EC Position

- Marc Tiritelli has asked to run again and has 4 years experience.
- Mel Eady nominated by Becky for Hudson.
- Mel Eady won the nomination.

For Medical Officer

--Mossberg running again, unopposed and re-elected

For Central Region Coordinator

--Anmar not running again

--Michael Huseman of Cincinnati is running unopposed and is elected.

--Anmar holds Michael's proxy for the remainder of the meeting.

For Eastern Region Coordinator

--Jeff Good running again, unopposed and re-elected

For Pacific Northwest Coordinator

--John PUNCHES running again, unopposed and re-elected

New Business

-A gear trailer road accident occurred on the way to the Indiana National Seminar.

--The gear was mostly uninjured.

--Anmar

---The gear cache has become unwieldy and too large for one individual to transport.

---Harold and Paul are asked if we can slim it down, particularly for smaller seminars.

---Fine tuning how much to bring rather than relying on a fixed list. This will take more work up front, but will reduce the load.

--Transport Options

---Shipping container to buy. They are not necessarily that much more expensive and we currently pay the driver a stipend.

---Buy a trailer or vehicle but it becomes an expensive and a valuable asset.

\*\*NOTE: Last year the BORC decided to self insure the cache\*\*\*

---Splitting up the cache into 2 or 3 areas would help with decontamination issues.

~This is Anmar's preference

~Harold and Paul have concerns about tracking equipment if this option is utilized.

---Becky notes that smaller trailers are easier and safer to drive

---Don P. for PUNCHES, suggests that we buy or build a storage building on Harold Grimes' property.

---There are ad-hoc committee of Harold and Paul working on all this. A proposal can be expected by September.

-White Nose Syndrome.

--Decontamination at National prior to student arrivals used bleach.

--PUNCHES more WNS discussion proposed for the Winter Meeting to allow more time for discussion.

--Forest Wilson MOVES that NCRC donate \$500 to the NSS for WNS Research. Training SECONDS.

---Discussion

~Putnam for White: lots of Federal money going into WNS research. \$800K as to date. Ray Keeler (at the BOG) noted ways to apply for a WNS grant. Putnam doesn't believe that the NCRC token money would make much of a difference. He would rather see NCRC money be spent on needed items such as a new phone.

~Anmar: It's a gesture to say we're supporting the WNS cause.

~Becky: Rapid response fund may be able to be deployed.

--Motion PASSES. Mossberg abstains, Putnam (SE) opposes.

-Don P. for John Punches

--Recommends buying a Cascade litter for testing, which was approved per earlier meeting minutes.

--Anmar tasks John with buying a Cascade.

--Also, Steve Hudson tasked to purchase a fast litter restraint system for testing.

-Don P. for John Evans

--Evans has concerns about banking and will continue to look into online banking options.

-Efrain

--Asks the group to recognize instructor Grace Matts, a cave rescuer from New South Wales.

---She seeks help in NS Wales. Unless accredited, cave rescuers won't be asked to help. The government insists on "competency based training" as part of a consolidated rescue agencies.

---Anmar responds: NCRC hasn't done this, per se, but various coordinators have.

---Becky: we don't call it "certification" but effectively NCRC does do a competency based type of training. The NSS could provide Grace Matts with a copy of our curriculum.

---Putnam: we've kept tight control on curriculum in the past. Is it counterproductive for the NSS as a training organization to it that way? Putnam and Tim would favor making the curriculum all unavailable.

---Becky: can we make the book available?

---Don: caving in Australia is different than caving in the US. Giving them our curriculum without any explanation won't help them much, but giving examples of how we structure our criteria, field work, etc would be more helpful and they could use our models.

---Mossberg: is the NCRC Curriculum copyrighted? --Yes, by the NSS.

---Anmar: NSS approval is not needed to release curriculum, but BORC approval is.

--Mossberg: MOVES that BORC shares curriculum and skills criteria with New South Wales.

--Becky for Steve: SECONDS

--Discussion

---Phil Whitefield Coordinator of Cave Rescue for Western Canada. Small party courses since the late 1990s. They sent their course to Steve and now that the NSS has one, he'd like to see it in return.

---Grace suggests that those who receive NCRC curriculum have to share back.

---Mossberg: reluctant to demand that.

---Anmar: can't enforce

---Mossberg: AMENDS MOTION TO ADD: BCCR

---Beck accepts amended motion and says Training will propose a policy for November meeting.

---Anmar: no problem with NS Wales or BCCR but doesn't want blanket distribution. Not without a concrete policy developed.

---Don P.: people will take NSS material and teach from them for profit.

---Putnam: that is a matter of copyright enforcement through the NSS legal officers or through polite requests, yet we can only copyright materials, not ideas. If people use our ideas for profit and help develop the body of ideas, that may produce innovations.

---Becky: Ed Committee will work on a policy for sharing with nonprofits.

---Mossberg: his motion is just for NS Wales and BCCR

---Efrain: I have lots of personal experiences of sharing rescue information worldwide. Our purpose is to save lives. We should share information, experiences, feedback, etc.

**\*\*PASSES UNANIMOUSLY\*\*** Grace Matts thanks for NS Wales

DJ Walker Arrived

South Central Report

-They had an OCR and a Levels 1 and 2 and all went well.

-Had to cancel plans for 2010 Nationals due to WNS

-An OCR or weeklong upcoming in TX

-Still working on getting bank account moved to new bank

#### Online database

- Trish has some time-consuming issues so it's progressing slowly but some instructor information is now inline. DJ will stay on top of it.
- Marianne and some other instructors didn't get teaching instructions. Problems seems to be email providers who filter emails sent to large groups. The issue is being worked on.

#### Other New Business

- Jansen Cardy: has new field phones and wants to know who is interested in one?
- 10 more phones are heading to the National Cache
- several regions and individuals were interested

#### Announcements

- Tom: Southeastern Region won a \$4000 rescue tripod in a raffle and it may be possible to bring it to Nationals.

#### Adjournment

- Mossberg moved, PASSED!