

NCRC Board of Regional Coordinators Winter Meeting 2021

February 27, 2021

Via Zoom

Attendees:

Anmar Mirza (NC), Roger Mortimer (TC), Brian Ekey (MC), Zeb Lilly (DC), Greg Moore (NE), Tony Smith (E), Tim White (SE), Jess Deli (C), DJ Walker (SC), Sarah Truebe (SW), Gretchen Baker (W), Eddy Cartaya (PNW), Marty Reames (NSS-NCRC Liaison), Devra Heyer (NSS Chief of Education), Glen Hugus, Berta Walker, Kristine Ebrey (NSS Finance), Bill Frantz, Stephen Bishop, Mark Dickey, Geary Schindel (NSS President), David Angel, Ian Moore

Call to Order at 7:05 am PST by Anmar Mirza, National Coordinator. All regions and officers present except for Caribbean, who designated Mirza as proxy. No recording secretary present; Gretchen Baker took minutes.

Reports:

Finance Report – no report

IT report – Greg Moore, Appendix A

Officer Reports

National Coordinator – Anmar Mirza - Appendix B

Training Officer –Roger Mortimer - Appendix C

Medical Officer – Brian Ekey - Appendix D

Diving Officer –Zeb Lilly - Appendix E

Regional Coordinator Reports

Caribbean Region – Roberto “Bull” Miranda - Appendix F

Central Region – Jess Deli - Appendix G

Eastern Region – Tony Smith - Appendix H

Northeastern Region – Greg Moore – Appendix I

Pacific Northwest Region – Eddy Cartaya – Appendix J

Rocky Mountain Region – Andy Armstrong – Appendix K

South Central Region –DJ Walker -- Appendix L

Southeastern Region –Tim White –Appendix M

Southwestern Region -- Sarah Truebe – Appendix N

Western Region –Gretchen Baker – Appendix O

2021 Seminar Update- New York – Greg Moore – Appendix P

2022 Seminar Update- Virginia: Third week in June in Covington, Virginia. More info to come from Tony.

2023 Seminar Update- Mentone: Rebecca Land Segrest is chair.

2024 Seminar Update- Oregon: Eddy Cartaya is chair.

Image Replacement – Mirza

Rick Speaect has sent a letter stating that images he produced are no longer to be used in NCRC materials. The NSS lawyers are dealing with the issue, and the NCRC will follow their lead.

In the future, the NCRC will be using a form so that all images used in publications, powerpoints, etc. are able to be used indefinitely.

Introduction of NCRC/NSS Liaison

Marty Reames was chosen to be the first NCRC/NSS Liaison. She will provide resources to both the NCRC and NSS and help with things like Instructor appreciation. Devra Heyer is the NSS Chief of Education, who will be Marty's contact.

Endowed Scholarship Report: Reames

Full report in Appendix Q.

Certification Update- Cartaya

Eddy has been working with USFS/NPS to look at outside certification.

9:30 am PST

Andrew Hower joined to explain the National Emergency Response Database. He showed the EMS Model, which has Education, Certification, Licensing, and Credentialing. This is a model that could potentially be used for Cave Rescue. He helped develop the Incident Position Qualification Guide (IPQG), which has qualifications for many different positions. No cave rescue position currently exists.

The National Park Service is a logical place to do the Licensing. They are directed "The saving of human life will take precedence over all other management actions..." If NPS is requested to outside of their lands, they can.

Development of a Position Task Book for Cave Rescue (at three different levels, corresponding to finishing Levels 1, 2, and 3) is under development. Some of the requirements are:

IS 100, 700

SR-Basic Search and Rescue

IAT: A100 (basic helicopter)

First Aid and CPR

Moderate Physical Fitness test (2 miles in \leq 30 minutes with a 25-pound pack)

Cave rescue knowledge

Once someone has checked off their Position Task Book, they could be put into the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). During a SAR, the NPS could hire them as an Administratively Determined (AD) hire, which provides worker's comp.

There are still some questions pending on if the NCRC would need to continue to do Certification as recently developed or if prior check-offs would suffice. The physical fitness test would be administered by a federal agency or perhaps a grotto. Any individual with a desire to complete the Position Task Book would have to get in touch with a NPS unit, and it was talked about having several NPS units throughout the country take a lead in this effort.

Lunch break 10:30-11 am PST

Endowed Scholarship Report (continued): Reames

Recommendations #2 and #3 are already in effect and do not need motions.

Motion: Southwestern Region moves to accept Recommendation #1 that instructors cannot apply for scholarships if attending as a student (as discussed in the Endowed Scholarship Committee 2021 report).
Votes: Yes=0, No=11, Abstain=2.
LOST.

Motion: Southwestern Region moves to accept Recommendation #4 that part of the scholarship awarded will be used towards one year of a full NSS membership for the applicant, if not already a member (as discussed in the Endowed Scholarship Committee 2021 report).
Votes: Yes=12, No=0, Abstain=2.
ADOPTED.

Training Manual Report: Mirza

Mirza recommends going from version 2.1 to version 3.0 with changes on 2 rope systems, patient packaging, medical updates, grammar issues, fixing inconsistencies with the curriculum. Some images will be replaced. Desire to have v3.0 by January 2022. Discussion on binding and availability tabled.

Steve Hudson Award –Mortimer

The Steve Hudson Award celebrates excellence in cave rescue. Closed session. The BORC voted on and approved a winner. Tune in to the NSS Awards Banquet at the Convention to find out the winner.

Elections:

From the BOG manual: The NCRC Board of Regional Coordinators shall recommend a candidate for each open position to the Administrative Vice President. The Administrative Vice President shall appoint or reappoint members of the NCRC Board of Regional Coordinators.

In order for the BORC to recommend candidates, the BORC holds elections.

-2021 BORC Positions to fill:

National Coordinator. Gretchen Baker elected.
Medical. Brian Ekey re-elected.
Central. Jess Deli re-elected.
Eastern. Tony Smith re-elected.
PNW. Not filled.

Education Committee Position at large:
Three Winter 2021 Positions:
Caroline Bull, Casey England, Scott McCrea elected.

2022 Election Search Chair will be Sarah Truebe.

2021 Budget (Appendix R)

Training coordinator moved to adopt.
Votes: Yes=12, No=0, Abstain=2.
ADOPTED.

Education Committee Action Items- Mortimer

Motion: Training moves that we accept the revised SPAR Student Handbook, once images have been replaced.

Votes: Yes=11, No=0, Abstain=3.

ADOPTED.

Motion: Training moves that we accept the revised SPAR lead instructor test.

Votes: Yes=10, No=0, Abstain=4.

ADOPTED.

Motion: Training moves that we accept the revised SPAR Safety Principles. Motion WITHDRAWN until next meeting.

Unfinished Business

-Instructor Retention Committee: Moore/Walker/Armstrong – no news

-Instructor Development – no news

-JHA- White: will be discussed more at next meeting in conjunction with Safety Principles from EdComm.

-ICAR/ECRA update Cartaya/Mortimer – no registration fees; Greece in Fall if Covid permits; ECRA-no membership fees for non-European members

-Branding Committee – White: Logo document of how we can and can't use the logo. Next step, using consistent fonts. Perhaps using standard templates on EC?

Motion: Southcentral moves that we accept the presented logo use and branding guide with direction to replace the old logo with the new logo recently approved.

Votes: Yes=12, No=0, Abstain=2.

ADOPTED

-IQ Student Approval: None this year

-Gear allocation money for up to \$1k/year per region. Regions should submit what they want.

Show and Tell

Sarah Truebe Alert Sense-Sarah will contact BORC members separately for demos

New Business

Motion: South-Central moves that we extend any requirements an instructor is obligated to meet for their certification through Dec 31, 2022.

Votes: Yes=13, No=0, Abstain=1.

ADOPTED.

Motion: South Central moves that for those students who have taken a class in 2016 or later, we waive the "have taken an NCRC class within 4-years" requirement through December 31, 2024.

Votes: Yes=13, No=0, Abstain=1.

ADOPTED.

Motion: Western moves that NCRC adopt the Groups.io platform to develop better communications among NCRC instructors and NCRC committees/groups.

Votes: Yes=12, No=0, Abstain=2.

ADOPTED.

Motion: Western moves that the BORC set up a website committee to review the current NCRC website and make recommendations on how to improve it.

Votes: Yes=12, No=0, Abstain=2.

ADOPTED.

Motion: Medical moves to adopt (and integrate into the curriculum) the revised SOG "104. Patient Management v210226" as recommended by the physician members of the BORC and the Medical Interest Group.

Votes: Yes=10, No=0, Abstain=4.

ADOPTED.

Motion:

SC Moves to recommend to the AVP for David Angel to fill the remainder of Western Region Coordinator Term as the Interim Coordinator.

Votes: Yes=7, No=2, Abstain=3.

ADOPTED.

Open Discussion Items

Southeastern Region noted that Brandon Powers will be the proxy for the next year.

Announcements

[NSS Virtual Topics in Cave Rescue series](#) goes through the end of May. The first session aired on February 10 with a video introduction to the NCRC regions by the regional coordinators and an introduction by Anmar. Over 170 people watched live. It's now on the [NSS YouTube channel](#). Due to interest by presenters and viewers, Sarah Truebe and Gretchen Baker may try to do another session in the winter of 2021.

ITRS coming in November.

Anmar has enjoyed his duties as National Coordinator for the past 12 years and gave a farewell statement. He will continue as an instructor, book editor, and other duties.

1454 PST, Meeting adjourned.

Appendix A

Database Coordinator Report for 2021

Database Coordinator: Greg D. Moore

Submitted: 2020-02-27

Overview

Now that it's been in place for a while, starting to spread word to any students who have recently taken a course that they can create an account using their NCRC ID (not their NSS ID) and email address. This allows them to review the information we have on them.

We continue to be plagued by missing data, especially from early courses. There's not much that can be done about this.

Last year was a light year in terms of students added/updated to the DB due to a real slowdown in training.

I've had an issue creating the report showing instructor status in a presentable format. The data is still available. However, due to extenuating circumstances (such as the extension granted to Puerto Rican instructors several years ago due to lack of testing/certification capabilities, and lack of opportunities last year) some instructors may show their status as expired, when all they need to do is contact the Training Coordinator and work out an extension/exception. If any of your local instructors mention they have not gotten the recent survey or feel left out, please have them let Roger and I know so we can look into it.

Classes Taught Last Year

The database shows 5 classes were taught last year: (down from 18 the previous year)

- 1 OCR
- 1 Other
- 2 Regionals
- 1 SPR

Individual Breakdown

- Did not obtain, need to find the query.

Student Breakdown

- Level 1 students – 39
- Level 2 students – 14
- Level 3 Students – 0 (due to no national)
- IQ students – 0 – (due to no national)
- TOFE Students – 0 (no TOFE this year)
- OCR students - 10
- SPR students – 24
- ICEE students – 0
- Specialists - 47
- Staff – 6
- Guest – 1
- DNC – Did not complete – 3

Database contains

- 7649 individuals. Some go as far back as the first National taught (an increase of 29 from the previous year)

- 402 total courses taught (we have data for 353)
 - 41 Nationals
 - 94 Regionals
 - 225 OCRs
 - 25 SPR
 - 12 “Other”
 - 2 ICEE

Class Totals Over Years

(Note this is total spots filled not distinct students)

- DNC – 44
- Level 1 – 2816
- Level 2 – 1060
- Level 3 – 512
- IQ – 189
- TOFE – 86
- OCR – 4412
- SPR – 344
- SPR-X – 12
- ICEE – 11
- Other - 36

Other Updates

Website moved to a new provider. This is less expensive and so far emails sent seem to have a far lower bounce/marked as spam rate. Did lose some rarely used functionality with email lists and similar, but have found workarounds.

Future plans

- Explore future commercial options
- Allow more self-service options
- Possible integration with RegFox
- 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.

Please do not add blank rows or additional columns. This can mess up the import. If you **MUST** add columns, add them to the far **RIGHT**.

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 submit it to paperwork@ncrc.info.

Appendix B

2021 National Coordinator report

Covid has created a challenge as a couple of weeks after the 2020 BORC meeting the world shut down. This put a lot of what NCRC does on hold. The national seminar was canceled, as were all but a small number of regional trainings.

A brief list of the overall activities since last year:

Participated in Education Committee meetings and curriculum development.

Worked with the NSS AVP to deal with NCRC personnel issues.

Worked with NSS Treasurer to transition NCRC treasurer duties.

Worked with new AVP to better facilitate communication between the NSS and NCRC.

Answered questions from NSS BOG members and EC.

Had three media contacts, a new low!

Paid the bills.

Anmar Mirza

Appendix C

Training Coordinator Report

What I've done:

-Chaired 12 EdComm meetings

-Worked with ICAR MedComm on Suspension guidelines

-Facilitated work by someone who wishes to do a cave modification weekend.

-Worked with Casey England on L3 search

Problems

-Too much work. All volunteers.

-COVID-19

-Images

Progress

-Since our last meeting we did do a regional seminar in New York and a SPAR in Oregon and specialized classes in Idaho and New Jersey.

-Revised SPAR student handout is done (aside from one image, and potentially a whole lot more)

-Revised SPAR lead instructor test. Added a more detailed description of safety margins for use while assessing potential lead instructors who are testing, and for more general use. This is not

the same as the NCRC Safety Policy but we feel it will be consistent with it. It will be revisited if there is a more general safety policy approved.

- Rearranged L3 curricular schedule to fit in Management and L3 Search

- Rearranged all schedules to fit in Belay certification testing on Day 2 evening so to disimpact certification testing on Thursday.

Plans

- Revised LP for SPAR pick-offs is being balloted

- Finish L3 Search and ballot and bring to BORC

- Ballot L3 Management and bring to BORC

- There is interest and expertise in doing a specialized class in cave modification. It was put on hold for COVID but could still happen.

- On a big picture level we want to look at the progression of the curriculum over the three levels. Ideally knowledge and skills, codified as objectives, flow over the three levels with a progression of difficulty. While repetition is sometimes advisable, some of the lesson plans have too much. We are working on tracking all the objectives to see if we like the amount of overlap versus progression. We have also identified that certain objectives pertain to other domains and would benefit from re-emphasis (e.g. hypothermia and packaging).

We are proposing to redo our lesson plans based on a reanalysis of objectives. Pending BORC approval, objectives would be adjusted to reflect ideal progression.

Motions

Training moves adoption of revised SPAR Student Handbook

Training moves adoption of revised SPAR Instructor Test

Training moves adoption of SPAR safety document

Appendix D

Brian Ekey, Medical Officer

Medical Interest Group -

The MIG was created as a public internet discussion group to debate and record contemporary medical recommendations as they pertain to the austere underground environment.

The discussions actively continue and are used as guidance and perspective when developing new curriculum. The MIG is publicly available at: groups.google.com/g/ncrc-mig

Curriculum - The NCRC **Medical Matrix** was published and remains under active development. It serves as a roadmap to update the entire medical curriculum of the NCRC. Entirely new lectures (such as **L1 - Hypothermia** v200420) have been developed and **lesson plans** approved for all of L2 and L3 following the medical matrix. The medical Matrix may be reviewed at:

bit.ly/ncrc_medical_matrix

Standard Operating Guidelines - A complete reorganization and reformatting of all current SOGs was completed (and published on **new letterhead**). In addition, two new SOGs (102. **NCRC**

Structure v200420 and 401. **BORC Procedures** v200427) were authored to codify and formalize our accepted procedures. The SOGs are available at: bit.ly/ncrc_sogs

COVID - The global pandemic introduced new obstacles previously unknown to the NCRC. Along with the Training Coordinator and dedicated Regional Coordinators, dynamic policy was developed (including **virtual lectures**) that allowed for safe delivery of NCRC curriculum.

Appendix E

Diving Officer Report 2020

Incidents:

5/18/2020-Consulted with the Sweet Grass County (Montana) Sheriffs Department about a fisherman that disappeared on the Boulder River and was believed to be in a submerged cave. No response from NCRC affiliated personnel.

Training Events:

No in person training events in 2020.

Plans:

Update sump rescue resource list

Plan and conduct a sump rescue training workshop in the Southeast US.

Continue to coordinate efforts with the International Underwater Cave Rescue and Recovery organization.

Appendix F

CARIBBEAN REGION

Roberto "Bull" MIRANDA PALACIOS

1. This certifies that the Caribbean Region won't be present at the meeting. Therefore is giving Anmar Mirza a Proxy.
2. No accidents to report on the last year.
3. No activities performed on 2020 due to the Pandemic.
4. A new date for a NCRC Regional is not yet available since the campground that we identified hasn't given us a date, because of the pandemic. The local government hasn't issue a statement allowing for the operation of campgrounds.
5. At the end of last year new ropes were added to the gear cache, with the help of National and its 1,000.00 Gear Initiative.

Appendix G

Jessica Deli

Date of Report: February 27, 2021

Trainings

April 2020: In Cave Emergency Exercises Horizontal (ICEE-H) in Bloomington, Indiana
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID

May 2020: Orientation to Cave Rescue in Powell, County Kentucky
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID

September 2020: Orientation to Cave Rescue
-Harrison County (Corydon), Indiana
-Sponsored by Harrison County EMS
-Primarily SAR/EMS county personnel in response to a rescue in area show cave

Call Outs

NCRC trained personnel responded to 4 callouts in Kentucky/Indiana
Notable: stroke in local show cave boosted OCR request

NCRC trained personnel responded to 1 eviction assist in Indian
Person thought to live in local cave, without landowner permission, to 'meditate'
for 30 days

Work in Progress

Outreach to local cave owners/managers to increase awareness of rescue resources.

Increase presence in Region via outreach, training, social medial, local caving events

CIG Vertical Workshop

Plans

June 2021?: Intermediate In Cave Emergency Exercises Horizontal (ICEE) in
Bloomington, Indiana

Spring/Summer 2021: Orientation to Cave Rescue in Wisconsin

November/December 2021: In Cave Emergency Exercises Vertical (ICEE-V) in
Kentucky

Problems

- Current Instructors in the Region on website is incorrect.
- Lack of instructors within the Region.

Other

-Huge influx of students who have completed Level 1 or higher are stepping forward and assisting/teaching/mentoring at various regional seminars!

-The Region has been looking for alternatives to the two blankets and tarp method for patient packaging. Wool blankets are difficult and pricy to obtain; are very bulky and difficult to take into small passages; become very heavy when wet. Four inexpensive heated vests have been purchased and utilized in trainings in the Region.

Price: Ranges from \$60-\$100

Battery operated: easily obtainable, USB connection, can be purchased locally

Multiple heat settings: 3-5 settings (104°F to 160°F)

Various material and thicknesses (cotton, fleece, poly)

Adjustable sizes

Various button location for easy access by medic or patient

Machine Washable

-These vests allow thinner polyester filled sleeping bags to be used in lieu of wool blankets.

Appendix H - Eastern

Eastern Region

Tony Smith

Eastern Region Coordinator

Report to the Board of Regional Coordinators

February 27 2021

Eastern Region Coordinator Report

- Working with VDEM on MOU with ERNCRC.
- Action Plan complete with Germany Valley Karst Survey (GVKS)
- Completed ER Staff Fall Meeting virtually Jan. 16th. At said meeting continued with plan to hold a Modular L1 and L2 in Blacksburg, VA, awaiting COVID reduction to ask for timing, and an OCR in Martinsburg, again awaiting reduction in COVID to schedule. Both classes were approved by Training Coordinator. Still planning NCRC weeklong 2022 for Covington VA, beginning of June. Purchasing hardware for levels one and two.
- ER Web Page updated

- Training Report:
 1. No training held due to COVID

- Rescue Report:
 1. No Rescues to report

Appendix I -

2020 Northeastern Region Report - Amended

Submitted: Greg D. Moore

February 27, 2021

Training

Due to COVID the National we were planning on hosting was moved to 2021 (see update on that in separate report).

By late summer, it became obvious there was still sufficient interest in further training, so with approval of the Training Coordinator, held the first ever Regional Level 1 in the Northeastern Region. This was held under strict Covid protocols and was done as a modular. Again, with approval, we used 2 separate Thursday night Zoom sessions to cover much of the classroom work. This allowed more time onsite to be in the field and to reduce close contact between students and instructors and staff. This worked well and I could consider it be considered for future modular. The sessions were recorded and are available on the website upon request.

This Modular allowed us to use the camp and surrounding facilities and I continue to be happy with them with a few minor tweaks. One area that was new to us that worked out quite well was a cliff line on Camp Pinnacle property. It's about a 1.5 mile drive from the camp (and vehicles with high clearance are recommended). This cliff gives multiple training opportunities and allows for multiple classes to be widely spread out. Area is shaded and the cliff heights range from 10' to over 50'. Some clearing may be necessary. There is also lots of parking here. Part of what prompted the success of this particular training was a huge interest (8 of the original 14 students) from the local medical school's outdoor program. While many had never been on rope before or caving, they picked up the skills quickly and rocked. The president of the outdoor program was able to find full funding for all her students. I look forward to further training with them.

Webinars

I was asked initially by the Bald Eagle Grotto to give a quick webinar for their grotto meeting.

The topic "Welcome to your First Rescue"

This was followed up by requests from the Windy City Grotto and finally the San Joaquin Valley Grotto. Still available for other grottos upon request.

Also did the Northeastern Webinar for the new set of NSS videos Gretchen and Sarah are doing.

Incidents

None that I'm aware of.

Expansion of Gear Cache

3 complete sets of 3:1 setups were purchased as well as some ropepads and other items. This has helped in our training plans and possibly future rescues.

National Seminar

Update under separate cover

Patches

Northeast Region acquired a number of “Rescue Patches” for resale with proceeds going into our checking account (someday). I still have bags of these. Will make them available at the National.

Appendix J

Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator Report for BORC Meeting February 27 2021

RESCUE ACTIVITY

No technical cave rescues reported in the region. Most caves closed due to COVID. All show caves closed. One deployment into Boyd cave to clear cave of suicide by cop suspect with Deschutes County Sheriff Office.

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES:

Spent a year planning the 2020 alpine OCR for Teton County SAR (Requested by ICAR members) at Fossil Mountain Ice Cave. Course was held in designated wilderness, and required extensive COVID mitigations, pack animals, etc.

Presented the weeklong extended SPAR in PNW August 2020. Implemented extensive COVID mitigations. No subsequent incidents. Integrated national requirements per the TC so course qualified for the 4 year currency for core levels. Integrated sump entrapment operations with NSS cave diver Michael Raymond.

Taught water problems for NE Region Modular Level 1 seminar.

Currently serve as Certification coordinator. Worked with NE region to get the modular level 1 certified. Successfully completed.

Ongoing coordination with NPS / USFS Washington Office emergency service managers to integrate NCRC certified personnel into the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC)(formerly ROSS) database.

Developed tactical cave operations class for local SWAT teams responding to barricaded gunmen / suicidal subjects in caves.

OCR for Bend Fire Department

Worked with specialized vendors to get access to state of the art hazmat intervention equipment, monitors, etc. Updated military SCBA due to arrive May 2021.

Presented at ICAR terrestrial commission (one of five virtual seminars) October 2020 on the Fossil Mountain Ice Cave alpine OCR.

Coordinated September Mt St Helens glacier cave on-going work for volcano hazard management and rescue pre-plan. Annual surveys are major expeditions supported by large staff, and aviation assets.

Recertified SPAR lead in 2020.

Upcoming / Planned 2021 Events:

Support PNW candidates for NCRC nationals in NY (if it goes) with scholarships to develop more NCRC certified instructors.

Request by Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and Bend Police for a 1 day cave operations orientation on dealing with armed barricaded subjects in caves / conduits and downed officer / subject extrications in such situations.

- OCR for Oregon Caves NM in June (COVID permitting)
- COVID permitting, several attending the Italian CNSAS level 3 weeklong cave rescue rigging seminar as part of PNW region exchange program.

- Host the 2024 NCRC National seminar in Oregon (moved from 2023 due to COVID) NEED DATES FOR 2024 NATIONALS. Meeting with Expo Center Manager in April.
- Restock the six rescue caches on Cave Ridge, Washington....the deepest caves in the region.
- Coordinating with Caribbean Region to deliver a week long SPAR in Costa Rica August 2021.
- Coordinating with Alberta British Columbia Cave Rescue (ABCCR) to deliver a week long SPAR in Canada late summer 2021.
- In discussions with Glacier Grotto of Alaska to host either a 3 day OCR or SPAR in Alaska.
- Work with Washington Office staff of DOI work group and USDA to get NCRC certified personnel integrated into the federal IROC system for domestic and foreign cave rescue deployments. Work with national work group to develop cave rescue position task books (PTB).
- Serve as terrestrial delegate to ICAR in Greece October 2021.
- Serve as terrestrial delegate to ECRA in Spain, November 2021.
- Registered to present for ITRS in November 2021

Eddy Cartaya
Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator

Appendix K

**National Cave Rescue Commission
Rocky Mountain Regional Report
Winter Meeting 2021
Andy Armstrong**

Recent Rescues / Events

- **May 19, 2020** – A fisherman loses his footing and is swept into Boulder River natural bridge, a cave/karst feature. RMR was contacted by Gallatin NF for assistance. Diving coordinator Zeb Lilly and I offered advice and assistance to the AHJ. No dive was attempted. The body was discovered by a “spelunker” below the falls on September 11, 2020.
- **October 17, 2020 – Nielsons Cave, Utah** – A caver used a rope in a bag for a 300 foot pit. He was assured by another caver that this rope had been used on the pit previously. About 40 feet off the ground the caver felt the end of the rope go through his hand. He fell 40 feet, bouncing off of several ledges. The caver amazingly only had minor injuries and the group was able to evacuate on their own.

Regional Training

- Alpine OCR led by Eddy Cartaya at Fossil Mtn. Ice Cave, WY
- Rescue Pre-Plan workshop -three Zoom sessions in January with a caving project in the region. Led by Bonny Armstrong. First session – Intro to pre-plan, review of SPAR systems, homework assignment. Second session – participants present their solutions for complex vertical problem Third session – Bonny and I summarized the solutions, pointing out things in common and important distinctions. Provided recommendations.

Appendix L

National Cave Rescue Commission South-Central Regional Report Winter Meeting 2021

DJ Walker

Recent Events/Activities

- Canceled our Regional Seminar due to Covid concerns
- Provided the Education Committee with a “turn key” Command and Control program. Parts of it will likely be rolled into the Level 3 curriculum.
- Provided Gretchen with an overview of the SC-Region for her video series project.
- Worked to update the SC-Region bank account to get all the proper signatories on the account.
- Generically, things have been quiet in our region with Covid canceling many events and activities.

Plans

- Tentative dates for 2022 SC Regional are being worked on. Will seek approval soon.
- We hope to conduct an OCR in West Texas.

Appendix M

Tim White - Southeastern Region Coordinator

No training events.

Four cave rescues that required emergency response:

1. January 17 - Heart of Gould Cave Sparta, TN

Rock fall resulting in broken femur and complex technical rescue.

2. March 2 - Raccoon Mountain Cavers' Chattanooga, TN

Twisted ankle. Simple rescue by Chattanooga Fire.

3. May 5 - Valhalla Pit Jackson County, AL

Uncontrolled rappel resulting in severe injuries. Cave rescue teams conducted simple raising rescue.

4. Sept. 13 - Snail Shell Cave Rutherford County, TN

Flooding and entrapment. Local agency response.

Contributed to Gretchen's NSS Cave Rescue Webinar Series

Appendix N

2020 Southwestern Region NCRC Report

February 27, 2021

2020 Rescues

- Scroll Cave, AZ - May 2020
 - Included L2, L1, and SPAR attendees
 - Written up in ACA, personal narrative available if anyone is interested

Progress

Trainings

- **NO IN-PERSON TRAININGS IN 2020**
- Numbers of student and instructor attendees for 2019 - note there are some double-counted if the same individual attended or taught more than one level or class during 2019. If students did not update their home addresses to the SWR in the database, they are not counted here:
 - Instructors at national weeklong: 1
 - Instructors at (South-Central) regional weeklong : 1
 - L3 students: 2
 - L2 students: 8
 - L1 students: 6
 - OCR students: 45
 - SPAR students: 7
 - ICEE students: 1
 - Specialists at (South-Central) regional weeklong : 1
 - Specialists at OCRs: 8
 - Staff at OCRS (non-instructional): 5
- We received much help from instructors from other regions in 2019, which will hopefully continue as we increase the number of instructors in AZ/NM.
- Planning started for Virtual Topics in Cave Rescue at request of someone in SW Region, already 500+ people signed up as of end of Feb 2021

Rescue Preparedness

- Cave Subject Matter Expert program continues for Arizona cavers who have skills to navigate for AHJ personnel in caves; only a few new signups this year, but advertising has been weaker (will correct in early 2021).
- Speciality/awareness training (online with Southern AZ Rescue)
- Cross-border agreements with Mex, IGA with AZ/NM/TX/CO/UT/NV, to expand with other states and resources - final draft September 2020, being passed around for review
- Formalized and finalized paging structure for callouts to assist AHJs during rescues

Outreach

- Presentations and Zoom presence at NM grotto meetings
- Planned presentation at 2021 AZ SAR conference and NM SAR conference (tentative) to reach AHJs

Plans

- 1 OCR per year per state, rotating locations, perhaps “hosted” by a different SAR team each time
- “Cave Rescue on the Border” (Nov 2021?), Sierra Vista, AZ - weeklong seminar (paperwork pending on cave approval and pandemic situation)
- SPAR courses when requested - main focus is callout rescue preparedness right now
- Specialty awareness training for agencies when requested (usually one evening and one day, not official NCRC training)
- Improve understanding of how SAR works in NM and how to get trained folks and gear to the places it needs to go
- Run enough trainings to be able to offer annual scholarships to supplement national scholarships for L1 attendees
- Improve accident/incident reporting across the region to the ACA or at least to the RC to submit to ACA

Problems

- Gear cache transportation/storage transition from previous coordinator (relatively minor, but definitely an upcoming issue)
- COVID-19

Appendix O

Western Region Report

Gretchen Baker

Recent Rescues

None

PROGRESS

Organization

- Updated [Western Region website](https://ncrc-wr.caves.org/) (https://ncrc-wr.caves.org/). Many thanks to the Eastern Region for their fine example.
- Developed **sub-regional coordinator system** for Western Region (WR) based on Eastern Region and Rocky Mountain Region. This includes finding a contact in Hawaii with SAR and caving experience. Currently there are no full-time residents of Hawaii that have had NCRC training in the past five years.
 - Southern California-David Angel
 - Central California-tba
 - Northern California-Patricia Seiser
 - Southern Nevada-Jessica Preston
 - Northern Nevada-Jason Williams
 - Hawaii-Ben McCandless

- Introduced myself to the Offices of Emergency Services in the three states
- Contacted other Regional Coordinators and got **good advice** on how to run a region—thank you for all the responses! I especially want to thank Bru Randall from the Eastern Region for answering several follow-up questions.
- Contributed to ‘Letter for Incoming Regional Coordinators’ started by Southwestern Region to help get new RCs up to speed
- Set up WR-NCRC executive group **listserve** under the NSS Western Region’s Group.io account. This has made it much easier to keep track of all our correspondence as well as put items on the calendar and share files and photos.

Support for Other Regions

- **August 2020-** One WR instructor assisted with a three-day alpine OCR in Wyoming set up by Pacific Northwest Region

Other NCRC Business

- WR holds **monthly Zoom meetings** with sub-regional coordinators and instructors; meeting minutes are shared within a week of the meeting on the Groups.io account so they are easy to find
- Put WR on the **AlertSense call out system**; many thanks to the Southwestern Region and Cochise County; a full-region test was conducted on February 1, 2021
- WR started developing a list of caves that are most likely to have rescues and began efforts to find and/or write **pre-plans** for them
- **Article** submitted about WR NCRC to the publication *Western Caver* (NSS Western Region publication for Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington)
- Helped review the **Standard Operating Guidelines** for the NCRC
- Helped Devra Heyer, NSS Ed Division Chief, better understand how the NCRC works
- Participated in the **Medical Interest Group**

PLANS

- Made preliminary plans to hold an **OCR** in Hawaii to remedy the lack of training there. Covid has delayed the class. Marty Reames recently purchased property there with her husband and has offered to help facilitate a seminar.
- Ron Davis will be serving as the WR representative for the 2021 NCRC Scholarship Committee.
- Have list of NCRC classes in WR to hold when Covid calms down.
- Helped develop the **Virtual Topics in Cave Rescue** webinar series that is airing on the NSS platform from February-May 2021, with 16 presentations planned.
 - Registration Link and list of presentations: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
 - NSS YouTube link for sessions that have already aired: [Virtual Topics in Cave Rescue - YouTube](#)

PROBLEMS

- **Lots of requests for NCRC training.** Covid is causing delays, plus we have a limited number of instructors (6) in the Western Region.

Appendix P

2021 National Site Coordinator Report

Site: Coordinator: Greg D. Moore

Submitted: 2021-02-27

Overview

I had hoped this would be a review of a successful 2020 National Seminar and I'd be reporting on closing things up. Obviously that is not the case. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the decision was made last year to postpone the 2020 National in New York to 2021 using the same site and facilities, hoping the pandemic would be over.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. The pandemic continues to loom large in our planning. At this time, I do not feel we can have a successful National Seminar for the current June 11-19th dates. While vaccination rates continue to improve, it does not appear we would be able to attract enough students across all levels to have an effective seminar.

Therefore: It is my recommendation, with the approval of the Training Coordinator to do the following:

The current June 11-19th dates be turned into a Regional Level 1 seminar. It appears under the current (and expected by then) NYS travel rules, we would be able to do this in a safe and effective manner. The smaller size of a regional, and the limited number of people involved would reduce the risks from Covid greatly. This regional would be limited to 14-20 students (unless things dramatically change for the better).

Move the National to a date in late August or early September. At this time the week of Sept 3rd-11th is being proposed. Despite this being Labor Day weekend and OTR occurring the first weekend, an ongoing Survey Monkey survey suggests that we would have sufficient interest from students and availability of instructors to make this work. The only other week the camp is currently available at this time is August 28th-Sept 4th which is also a very popular date among the students.

There are more details below.

Camp

The new retreat coordinator that was hired last year as since left, but we continue to have good communications with the camp.

They are very willing to work with us as needed.

Caves

Working on cave access. The Northeastern Cave Conservancy (NCC) is very eager to work with us and we expect to have more than enough caves and preserves for everyone. These include:

- Clarksville Cave – Closest, heavily usable for Level 1
- Knox Cave – usable by all levels
- Ella Armstrong – very small, limited, tight vertical entrance

- Sellecks – I believe used for up/down in the past
- Bensons – Acquired since last seminar, not familiar with it
- Alan Traino Preserve – Not on current webpage, but about 20 minutes away, useful for up/down

Also we have access to NSS preserves:

- McFails (useful for up/down) (cave itself is wetsuit only)
- James Gage (vertical entrance, but used for Level 2 in the past)
- Schoharie (single long, water filled passage)

Cliffs

We continue to have preliminary permission to use a set of cliffs at Thacher Park (not the main ones) that if work out is a 10 minute drive and 1 minute walk.

However, our Regional Modular Level 1 class allowed us to explore and make use of a line of cliffs ON Camp property. This line of cliffs is over .5 miles long and gives a great variety of work areas with plenty of room for parking. This is about a 10 minute drive from the Camp parking lot. Vehicles with high ground clearance are recommended (though at least one Prius has made it in.)

And if needed we can have access to cliffs in Schoharie itself that we've used in the past. This is about 30 minutes away.

Signups

At this time, 50 students (including IQ) have signed up. Current breakeven is 55 (based on 30 instructors attending) (this includes slight price increase for 2021 registrants)

- Level 1 – 31 (cap is at 31, we have 6 additional already on the waitlist for a total of 37)
- Level 2 – 3 (This is some concern, but we expect a boost after the Regional)
- Level 3 -5 Cap is set at 16
- TOFE – 6 Cap is currently set at 16. May increase depending on interest
- IQ – 5 all 5 had registered for last year

At this time I have done NO marketing for 2021 in light of the on-going pandemic. After this weekend, after I've received board guidance, I expect to make a large marketing push so I expect all numbers to go up. I expect some changes to the numbers if we change the date, but as it is, we cannot guarantee the folks currently signed up can attend in June in any event. A later date however gives everyone a greater chance to be vaccinated which allows a much higher likelihood folks can attend (and NYS rules allow attendance).

I will note we've had 6 signups for Level 1 in the past 3 weeks despite no effective marketing and folks being aware that the event may be cancelled or postponed.

I believe by if we postpone to September, with a marketing blitz we can get a sufficient number of students for all levels beyond Level 1.

Conclusion

While Covid looms large over our planning, I feel confident we can have an effective National Seminar if we postpone to September and resume marketing in the near future. That said, it is

still entirely possible that we will need to cancel the National if vaccination rates fall short of current projects or other factors come into play.

Appendix Q

To: NCRC BORC

From: Marty Reames, NCRC Scholarship Chair

Date: February 15th, 2021

Subject: 2021 Report on NCRC Scholarship Program

This document is the 2021 annual report to the BORC on NCRC's Scholarship program. The funds are in an endowment fund managed by the NSS. At the beginning of each fiscal year for the NSS, April 1st, the amount of money available for NCRC scholarships will be determined. This amount will vary from year to year based on market conditions and to ensure the principal of the fund is not touched.

Scholarships awarded

For the 2020-2021 NSS Fiscal year, \$6,000 has been available for the NCRC Scholarship fund. Per the 2020 NCRC Scholarships BORC Report, half of the funds were allocated to the National training and half of the funds were available for Regional week-longs.

NSS Fiscal Year	National Training	Regional Week-longs	Total Scholarship Funds
2019-2020	\$1,125	\$375	\$1,500
2020-2021	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000

The following table shows the scholarships awarded for the 2020-2021 NSS Fiscal year.

Training	Total Amount Available	Total Amount Awarded	# of Scholarships Awarded	Amount per scholarship
Nationals in New York	\$3,000	\$2,920	8	\$365
SPARX in Oregon	\$800	\$0	0	\$200
Totals	\$3,800	\$2,920	8	

Due to the covid pandemic, the national training did not occur in 2020. Per a decision by the BORC, the scholarships awarded will be valid for the next National training, currently planned in New York for June 2021.

Only one regional training requested scholarships, a SPAR class in Oregon in August 2020. The scholarship committee unanimously agreed to put aside money for scholarships; however, no completed applications were received. Three partial applications were submitted by international students who did not attend the training due to the pandemic.

It is anticipated that more scholarships will be awarded in future years once the pandemic is over.

Scholarship judges for 2020

For the 2020 calendar year the following individuals served on the NCRC Scholarship committee:

Name	Region represented
Tony Smith	Eastern
Sarah Truebe	Southwestern Region
Carrey Bull	South Central
Stephen E. Bishop	Central
Scott Stepenuck	Northeastern

Everyone on the committee has been very helpful and responsive as we continue to improve the scholarship program and judging process. Thank you for your time.

Each year, representation will first be requested by regions who did not have representation during the previous year and then additional spots will be filled by scholarship judges who are willing to serve an additional year. For the 2021 calendar year, the following individuals have volunteered to serve on the NCRC Scholarship Committee:

Name	Region represented
Andy Armstrong	Rocky Mountain Region
Ron Davis	Western Region
Tony Smith	Eastern
Carrey Bull	South Central
Scott Stepenuck	Northeastern

Scholarship plans for NSS 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

For the upcoming fiscal year, unless the BORC provides guidance otherwise, I recommend that 50% of the funds be allocated to scholarships for the National training in New York and 50% of the funds be reserved for Regional week-long trainings. Per the BORC guidance, voting members of the NCRC Scholarship committee will determine the specific amount of funds to be available for each Regional training requesting scholarships.

For the upcoming National training in New York, provided the training is a go given the pandemic, scholarship applications will be due by March 31st and the scholarship awardees will be determined and announced by mid April. Advertising for National scholarships will begin after the Feb 27th BORC meeting.

Scholarships for Regional week-longs are available upon request. See attachment A for the request format. Please send the request as far in advance as possible to ensure there is enough time for the Scholarship committee to review the availability of funds, to provide sufficient time for students to apply, and to allow the Scholarship committee time to review the applications.

Please note: I will be unresponsive to email mid-Aug thru mid-Sept, thus if you have Regional training in the second half of 2021 and you would like to request scholarships for the training,

please submit your request before August 15th.

BORC Guidance Requested

As we have worked through the revised guidance established by the BORC in 2019, a handful of areas for clarification have risen. I request that the BORC review the following recommendations for enhancements to the NCRC scholarship guidance and vote on the changes during the Feb 27th, 2021 BORC meeting.

- 1 - Add a rule to not allow instructors to apply for scholarships (for example, an instructor attending a SPARX class for lead certification).
- 2 - Currently I am under the understanding that three letters of recommendation are required for National training. This amount seems a bit excessive and it is not clear if the same requirement should be held for Regional week-longs. I recommend that the guidance be revised to state that a minimum of two letters of recommendation is required for all applications. This should apply to both National and Regional events.
- 3 - Per previous guidance for scoring applications, it was noted that NSS membership is required and the longer the applicant is an NSS member, the better. As many of our applicants are fairly new to the NSS, I recommend that no weight be given regarding the length of NSS membership.
- 4 - Additionally regarding NSS membership, for National training, NSS membership is required. However, this is not the case for Regional training. To encourage more NSS membership and to not discourage those who are not yet NSS members from applying for a scholarship, I recommend that the scholarship guidance be revised to state if an applicant is awarded a scholarship and is not an NSS member, a portion of their scholarship money will be applied toward their NSS membership.

Feel free to contact me at any time with questions or comments.

Thank you,
Marty Reames
NCRC Scholarship Chair
NSS #53414
scholarships@ncrc.info
719-357-9261 (Google Voice)

Attachment A
NCRC Regional Training Request

Thank you for your interest to have NCRC Scholarships available for your upcoming regional training. The NCRC Scholarship program has funds available to provide scholarships for the annual Nationals training as well as for a handful of week-long regional training classes each year. To request scholarships for a regional training, email the following information to: scholarships@ncrc.info

Has the training been approved by the National Training Coordinator?

What are the dates of the training?

Where will the training be held?

Which level(s) will be offered?

What is the cost?

What is the maximum number of students for the training?

How many scholarships would you like to request?

How much money would you like to offer per scholarship (please note that scholarships can

only go up to half of the cost of the student's registration)?

Once the information is sent, please allow a couple of weeks for the information to be disseminated among the NCRC Scholarship committee for discussion. Several factors need to be considered including the amount of money available for the fiscal year and other regional trainings.

Thanks,
Marty Reames
NCRC Scholarship Chair

Appendix R

NCRC BUDGET FY 2021-2022

	National	Regional	Total
Income			
Merchandise Sales	5000	650	5650
Donations & Sponsorships	50	50	100
Interest Rec'd	0	5	5
Seminar Income	50000	60000	110000
Seminar Fees paid to National	13000	0	13000
Rescue Scholarship fund: NSS	0	0	9500
Total Income	68050	60705	138255
Expenses			
Dues & Licenses		50	50
Education & Training	1700	500	2200
Equipment	5000	15000	20000
Insurance (Certification fee) to NSS			5280
Merchandise Expense	2500	1000	3500
Merchant Processing	1600	1600	3200
Office Supplies & Expenses	1000	1500	2500
Postage & Mailings	50	50	100
Printing & Publications	2000	3000	5000
Professional Fees	500	200	700
Property Tax	0	50	50
Scholarships Granted	0	200	9200
	0	0	0
Seminar Expenses			0
Food & Facilities	40000	17000	57000

Supplies	500	500	1000
Transportation	1000	200	1200
Misc Seminar Expenses	1000	1500	2500
Seminar Fees paid to National	6000	6000	12000

<i>Total Expenses</i>	62850	48350	125480
<i>Net Income/(loss)</i>	5200	12355	12775

Minutes respectfully submitted,

