

NCRC BORC Meeting

Location: Virtual Meeting

Date: **September 19, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

By Gretchen Baker at 5:30 pm (PDT).

Recording Secretary: Bonny Armstrong

In Attendance

BORC: NC – Gretchen Baker, TC – Mel Eady-Pumplin, SC – DJ Walker, RM – Rene Ohms, WR – David Angel, Central – Jess Deli, SW – Sarah Truebe, NE – Greg Moore, Diving – Zeb Lilly.

Proxies: Central for PNM, SC for SE.

NCRC Volunteer Position Holders: Marty Reames, Bonny Armstrong, Rich Pumplin, Casey England, Berta Walker.

Guests: Christy Starr, Pat Seiser, Jeff Burns

17 total

Proposed Changes to Meeting Agenda – None.

Approval of 2022 August meeting minutes – Approved without changes.

1. Reports of Officers

- a) National Coordinator – Gretchen reports she has been busy working with the Education Committee and the Training Coordinator, as well as working on insurance logistics, communications, and the Puerto Rico seminar.
- b) Training Coordinator – Deferred discussion to later in the meeting.
- c) Financial Officer – Christy Starr reports that all regional accounts are up-to-date and accessible online. Berta is now set to assume the Financial Officer duties.
- d) Elections – Brandon was not present to give an update.

2. Reports of Committees

- a) 2023 Alabama Seminar update – Rebecca not present to report. How to keep the student cost under \$1,000.00? Need to raise over \$8,000.00. Can we use/find sponsors? Can the NSS help? Discussed when to open registration; tabled until next meeting.
- b) Education Committee – Mel brought three questions for BORC input: 1) how many extra locking carabiners (not included in personal vertical system) should students be required to bring? The consensus was two (2) but that could vary depending on regional gear cache inventory. 2) What is the NCRC's stance on students having Chinese/Amazon gear? The consensus was when spotted, that equipment should not be allowed in class activities. 3) Is there a desire to address the list of NCRC approved descending devices? One argument is that we need to stay up to date with new devices and allow students to use what their agencies use. Another argument is that our approved devices are tested and considered to be the most appropriate for the cave environment. Mel then reviewed the feedback from the 2022 Virginia Seminar which showed some concern regarding curriculum.

3. Old Business

- a) Image Replacement/Copyright form – Marty reports Devra Hyer has been working on a general copyright form; Marty will email the BORC a draft and requests feedback by October 3, 2022. Managing the copyrights will be a huge undertaking, though.
- b) Technology Proposal – Billy Chrimes was not present to report.
- c) Certification Pilot – Casey reports that there has not been a lot of progress since the last report.
- d) Big Picture Curriculum Development – Mel reports that the curriculum needs to be reevaluated to look at the Big Picture, not band aid repairs. Mel presented on why the revamp is needed, the benefits of revamping, and how such an undertaking might be coordinated. The process would begin at the February instructor retreat, followed by forming special interest groups that would coordinate with the Education Committee and Training Coordinator. **SW moved to support the Education Committee as they start the process of overall curriculum revamp, SC seconded, motion passed.**

4. New Business

- a) Winter Instructor Retreat and BORC meeting – Retreat: February 22-24, BORC Meeting February 25. Location to be announced, looking at Salt Lake City, with Tucson as a backup.
- b) Next Meeting – Monday, October 24, 2022 @5:30 pm (PDT); will be a shorter meeting to address Mentone national (particularly budget) and haul command changes

5. Announcements (from agenda)

- a) ECRA – Sept 29-Oct 2 Rudice, Czech Republic (Eddy Cartaya, Mark Dickey, and Michael Raymond attending)
- b) ICAR – Oct 11-16 in Montreaux, Switzerland (Eddy Cartaya and Roger Mortimer attending)
- c) ITRS - Nov 3-6 in Albuquerque (various NCRC folks attending; Call for presentations)

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm PT.