

National Cave Rescue Commission

Board of Regional Coordinators

Winter Meeting
Chattanooga, TN
February 22, 2020

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Anmar Mirza called the meeting to order at 9:02AM ET. Amber Lehmann was present as interim recording secretary.

Coordinators & Staff Present

National - Anmar Mirza
Southeastern - Tim White
NorthEastern- Greg Moore
PNW - Eddy Cartaya
Central - Jessica (Jess) Deli
Treasurer - Gaylene Speaect
SouthCentral – DJ Walker
Medical -Brian Ekey
Training – Roger Mortimer
Eastern – Tony Smith
Caribbean – Roberto “Bull Miranda”

Proxies

Diving - Michael Raymond
RMR – Ron Miller
SouthWestern – Sarah Truebe

Guests

Kristine Ebry
John Hickman
Cathy Borer
Bill Putnam
Amanda Mortimer
Glenn Hugus
Zeb Lilly
Rick Speaect
Kat Crispin

Quorum: Present

2) Officer & Committee Reports

Finance: Gaylene Speaect: Emailed

- Kristine will take over NSS Secretary and Treasurer. Gaylene will play supporting role. Kristine will be added to signature cards for banks. She is on the southwest checking account.
- The budget needs to be approved.
- Finance report will be tabled for now.

National: Attachment A

IT: Greg Moore: Attachment B

- Database has been updated. 5 spars. 9 OCRS. Both up from last year.
- Over 7,600 individuals in the database.
- Taught around 400 courses.
- Between 60 and 70 instructors.
- Number is changing. Recommendation to track certifications through the NSS.

Training: Roger Mortimer: Attachment C

- Agenda items will be discussed later in the closed meeting.

Medical: Brian Ekey: Attachment D

Diving: Attachment E

Caribbean: Attachment F

Central: Attachment G

Eastern: Attachment H

Northeastern: Attachment I

PNW: Appendix J

Rocky Mountain: Appendix K

South Central: Appendix L

Southeastern: Attachment M

Southwestern: Attachment N

Western: Attachment O

Endowed Scholarship Report: Marty Reames: Attachment P

NOTE: Roger Mortimer had action items for later in the meeting. Level 3 discussion. What is the big picture for Level 3? We need to solidify the idea that it's a capstone level course - or not. He proposed to change some areas and remove highline section. He had some updates to his original report on Dropbox. No motions yet for individual changes. Folks needed time to review changes before a motion was made.

Asked permission of the board for a test run to modify changes. Anmar Mirza gave permission to test run these modifications for New York seminar.

Training Manual Report: Anmar Mirza. 3-year update rotation cycle. Next update cycle is 2021.

Publication date – Spring 2021. The board needs to have a discussion around an electronic publication.

Steve Hudson Award Report: Mortimer suggested discussion in closed session

NE made the motion to accept minutes from phone conference 11-25-2019 to be accepted as corrected.

Central – Seconded

VOTES:

12 for: 2 abstentions: 0 opposed

MOTION CARRIED

3) NCRC Weeklong Seminar Updates

2020: Greg Moore presented for New York

2021: Tony presented for Virginia via PPT presentation

2022: Rebecca presented for Mentone

2023: Eddy updated on Oregon location. NOTE: Kat made the statement that if the NRCR Weeklong Seminar date is set before the Convention date, that NCRC has precedence over Convention

2024: Board had discussion about possible locations. DJ Walker was tasked with getting bids and proposals for the 2024 location by the next Winter BORG meeting.

5) Elections Discussion

Diving Coordinator Election: Michael Raymond and Zeb Lilly running for Diving coordinator. Each had opportunity to present their case for the position. Michael presented 1st. Zeb, 2nd.

- Board asked several questions to both candidates in open session.
- Board held discussion in closed session.
- VOTES: Zeb won election. Appreciation went to Michael.

Western Region Coordinator Election: Gretchen Baker is running - and she'd resign from the EC if elected.

- Clarification is needed about whether or not it's a policy that one cannot be a Regional Coordinator AND a member of the EC. Regardless, Gretchen did resign from EC.
- **Southcentral made the motion to accept Gretchen Baker as Western Regional Coordinator, Sarah Truebe as SW Regional Coordinator and Greg Moore as NE Regional coordinator by acclamation. Medical seconded the motion.**

VOTES:

11 for: 3 abstentions: 0 opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Education Committee Election: Each candidate in attendance presented their positions. Amanda Mortimer was 1st. Cathy Borer 2nd. Ron, as Andy's proxy, chose to abstain from voting on this election due to a conflict of interest.

- Board had discussion in closed session. Board voted by way of writing top three candidates on paper. Kat Krispin took the tally.
- Education Committee Positions voted in: Cathy Borer, Mel Eady, Jonathon Wilson. Carrey Bull was voted for 1-year position.

5) Old Business

Logo Review

- **Southcentral moved to accept the 2020 updated original logo as the new NCRC. SW seconded the motion.**

VOTES:

11 for: 1 abstention: 1 opposed

MOTION CARRIED

- Anmar appointed Tim as the branding committee chair. The branding committee shall create the branding guidelines for NCRC within 6 months, starting 2-22-2020. Brian and Zeb will serve on committee.

Instructor Retention Committee Discussion: (refer to DJ's motions in Attachment R)

Instructor Development

- **The South-Central Region moved to adopt the Instructor Development Policy presented in the document provided to the group via email (Attachment S). Medical seconded the motion.**
- **Southcentral explained the current Instructor development process to the group.**

VOTES:

6 for: 7 opposed

MOTION FAILED AS WRITTEN

- Discussion to revamp instructor development process and come back to the table with updated policy. The direction is for the workgroup to continue the work with some fine tuning.

Instructor Recertification

- **Southcentral moved to: (See Attachment S). Medical seconded motion.**
- **Southcentral explained the motion to the group.**
- **Group discussion about the value of the instructor test and improvements.**

VOTES:

8 for: 4 abstentions: 2 opposed

MOTION CARRIED

- Anmar expressed thanks to the group for work already done.

Education Committee Discussion

- Most items will be discussed in the closed session.

Certification Update

- Eddy provided his updates for the certification process.

Job Hazard Analysis Update

- Tim White discussed the document he sent via email to the group (Attachment T). The group suggested minor revisions to the document. Discussion tabled.

Eddy and Roger presented on ICAR and ECRA.

2018/2019 IQ students: Roger Mortimer

- Tabled to closed session

Discussion about next meeting location. Proposals for new locations. Date set for 2-27-2021. Last full weekend in February. Proposals will be due at next phone meeting.

7) New Business

Show and Tell

- Tony presented medical Info carrier system
- Jess presented heated vests and other warming materials for patient packaging
- Medical Matrix
 - Matrix is for medical issues in Levels 1, 2, 3. Ekey presented to the group for support.
 - **Medical made a motion that NCRC use the draft medical matrix as presented as guidance for medical curriculum updates. Eastern seconded motion.**
VOTES:13 for: 1 abstention: 0 opposed
MOTION PASSED

Certification Update

- Eddy Cartaya opened discussion about certifications. He proposed that the students who were at the South Central Regional event that were NOT NSS members will be given a certificate of completion and will get \$30 back. Discussion was had about NCRC students having to be NSS members.
- **Medical moved that the BORC direct the two Instructors at the South Central Regional Seminar back -pay their dues to facilitate the certification process at the 2020 South Central Regional Seminar. Northeastern seconded.**
VOTES:
12 for: 1 abstention: 0 opposed
MOTION PASSED

Incident Report for SPAR NY, July 2019

- Mortimer opened discussion about a pick off gone bad and what happened at this event. It was a substantial incident. Error in technique was not caught by instructor.
- This incident should be brought up at the Instructors meeting.
- Discussion was open about how to prevent incidents
- Eddy proposed that we incorporate using JHAs to avoid things like this.

SPAR Pickoff

- PNW moved that the BORC adopt the investigative policy and practice, effective immediately after subsequent approval by the NSS Board of Governors and NSS Legal (Attachment ____)
Motion withdrawn.
- **PNW moved that the pick off technique referred to as either the Direct Haul or Brute Force method be added and described in the SPAR student handbook currently under development. Eastern seconded.**

- **Rocky Mountain made a motion to amend that the issue be referred to the education committee for consideration. Southcentral seconded. Board discussed.**

VOTES:

7 for :4 abstention: 2 opposed

MOTION PASSED

Conflict of Interest policy:

- **The South-Central Region moved to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy presented, and require members of the BORC and any committee or subgroup of the BORC sign the referenced Conflict of Interest Statement at the beginning of their service. This Conflict of Interest Policy shall go into effect immediately. Southeastern seconded. If approved the documents should be forwarded to the AVP of the NSS.**

VOTES:

13 for:1 abstention

MOTION APPROVED

Investigative Policy:

- **PNW moved that the BORC adopt the attached investigative policy and practice, effective immediately after subsequent approval by the NSS Board of Governors and NSS Legal. Caribbean region seconded. Board discussed. Motion tabled for next phone meeting.**

BORC Operating Policy:

- **Anmar asked the BORC for opinions on how to operate and facilitate meetings. He asked someone to head the process but requested all BORC participation by next Winter meeting. Greg Moore volunteered to be the Chair and Brian Ekey to be co-chair on this committee. Ron suggested calling them by-laws.**

Sarah explained a call out system.

Anmar requested that someone update our policies on the website. Sarah was voluntold.

The next phone meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 27 – 9ET.

NCRC is helping to sponsor ITRS. No financial obligation.

Amber made announcement for Cyclops fundraising.

Anmar Mirza made the motion to end the meeting at 6:48pm.

Appendix A

The National Coordinator:

Chaired the meetings.

Paid the bills.

Answered requests for information from the Media.

Responded to directives from the NSS EC.
Responded to information requests from the BOG.
Attended the EC meetings.

Appendix B

Database Coordinator Report for 2020

Database Coordinator: Greg D. Moore
Submitted: 2020-02-22

Overview

Database now in theory will update address info (but not names) based on the spreadsheet used to submit data. If Address data is blank, no update should take place. Minor error earlier this year updated some folks (all instructors) to blank address info, but that has been corrected. However, if you find an error or out of date data, please let me know.

Classes Taught Last Year

The database shows 18 classes were taught last year:

- 2 ICEE (now has its own designation in the DB)
- 1 National
- 1 Regional
- 5 SPR
- 9 OCRs

Individual Breakdown

- Did not obtain, need to find the query.

Student Breakdown

- Level 1 students – 56
- Level 2 students – 33
- Level 3 Students – 15
- IQ students – 5
- TOFE Students – 0 (no TOFE this year)
- OCR students - 169
- SPR students – 92
- ICEE students – 11
- Specialists - 89
- Staff – 18
- Guest – 1
- DNC – Did not complete – 3

Database contains

- 7620 individuals. Some go as far back as the first National taught

- 398 total courses taught (we have data for 349)
 - 41 Nationals
 - 92 Regionals
 - 224 OCRs
 - 24 SPR
 - 11 “Other”
 - 2 ICEE

Class Totals Over Years

(Note this is total spots filled not distinct students)

- DNC – 44
- Level 1 – 2805
- Level 2 – 1060
- Level 3 – 512
- IQ – 189
- TOFE – 86
- OCR – 4402
- SPR – 331
- SPR-X – 12
- ICEE – 11
- Other - 32

Other Updates

Terms for Regional Coordinators and EC members now on webpage.

Will be working on updating loader tool to make things faster and easier. But must use v1.2 or greater of Spreadsheet.

Updated Instructor list on website. Needs an update next week with more data. Working on making this more dynamic, and possibly “real-time” (i.e. always up to date).

Future plans

- Explore future commercial options
- Allow more self-service options
- Possible integration with RegFox
- Try to track down more incomplete data

Recommendation

I’ve gone back and forth on this, but have currently come down on the side of the fence that the record of certification should reside in the NSS database, not the NCRC one. The most basic reason (there are others) is that all certified people have to maintain NSS membership, but not all NCRC students need to be NSS members (i.e. OCRs, SPARs, etc.) And NSS tracks membership by default. We can and still will provide the ability for students to be able to log into the NCRC database and print a “transcript” but it will not show certification since it can’t show membership.

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 BORG 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 C

Western Region Report

No rescues

OCR in Nevada led by Gretchen

WRC assisted teaching SPAR for MRA in PNW

Assisted with cave training for Fresno County SAR

Problems: WR cache needs new tires

Plans: Early discussion for an OCR in Hawaii

Stand down

Training Coordinator Report

2/22/2020

Plans

-New test for New York

Progress

-L1 Hypothermia to BORG

-L2 Search to BORG

~~-L2 Equipment failure demo to BORG~~

-SPAR student manual revised

- Reminded all expiring instructors of their status and encouraged to come to NY to update.
- Chaired 8 EC meetings

Problems

- Too much work to do.
- “What is the curriculum?” remains undefined. Objectives for sure but that alone is not sufficient. Powerpoints and Lesson Plans are better answer but these are not complete. We have holes. The book covers curriculum but also goes beyond it so is not the final answer.
- NSS membership of instructors not always up to date
 - Propose an ad hoc committee to make a “How to do a seminar” booklet with checklists based on work that Steve Hudson already did.

Level 3

Capstone level or technical specialist only?

A presentation on a capstone model

Concerns raised on the proportions of technical versus other aspects of cave rescue

- Not enough management, when we expect L3 students to manage
- Progression on technical aspects of cave rescue but not med/search/Media/Psych

Need to change some Lesson Plans

Highlines

Objectives The student will be able to:

1. Discuss appropriate applications and negative aspects of highline systems in rescue
2. Describe ways to alleviate the need for high-tension highlines
3. Approximate the tension on each leg of the mainline and its anchors
4. Identify the resultant forces in multi-point systems; anticipate load shifts and subsequent resultant forces
- ~~5. Build and operate a twin system traverse~~
- ~~6. Build and operate a simple high line~~
- ~~7. Build and operate a highline with pick-off capacity~~
- ~~8. Build and operate a guiding line (when site/time allows)~~

Objectives:

1. Discuss appropriate applications and negative aspects of highline systems in rescue
 2. Describe ways to alleviate the need for high-tension highlines
 3. Approximate the tension on each leg of the mainline and its anchors
 4. Identify the resultant forces in multi-point systems; anticipate load shifts and subsequent resultant forces
 5. Discuss a simple highline, a highline with pick-off capacity (Reeve), and a twin-tensioned traverse.
 6. Assist with operation of a simple highline.
 7. Build and operate a twin tensioned traverse and/or a simple highline.
5. Discuss a simple highline, a highline with pick-off capacity (Reeve), **guiding line**, and a twin-tensioned traverse.
7. Build and operate **one of the following means of horizontal movement: a guiding line**, twin tensioned traverse, a simple highline, or **other horizontal system of transport as previously discussed. (Instructors choose most appropriate option given the site and obstacles.)**

Medical

~~**Objectives** — The student will be able to:~~

- ~~1. Using an assessment form, perform primary and secondary patient assessment~~

~~2. Demonstrate or describe the management of patients with the following:~~

~~Compromised airway secondary to patient position or obstruction~~

~~Inadequate breathing~~

~~Heavy bleeding~~

~~Head/neck/spinal injury~~

~~Shock~~

~~Fractures and dislocations~~

3. Discuss criteria that allow “clearing c-spine”

4. Discuss criteria for determining if a patient can self-evacuate with assistance or will be carried out

~~5. Demonstrate packaging patients who are victims of hypothermia and/or trauma~~

~~6. (~~

And then develop O=objectives 3 and 4

Versus (from Brian Ekey)

1. Recall material from L2 including Med Ops . (Cognitive Knowledge)
2. Explain treatments for complex injury and illness. (Cognitive Comprehension)
3. Analyze **reports from underground** teams to determine resource needs . (Cognitive Analysis)
4. Predict the emotional response of the patient and rescuers. (Affective Evaluation)
5. Perform advanced medical assessment with **pulse ox and temp probe**. (Psychomotor Application)
6. Demonstrate techniques for patient waste disposal . (Psychomotor Application)
7. Compare and contrast modified **packaging systems for complex** injury. (Psychomotor Evaluation)
8. Judge suitability of **equipment for the underground** environment. (Psychomotor Evaluation)

Anchoring

Objectives The student will be able to:

1. Find and use natural cave anchors
2. List physical and non-physical considerations when using of bolts
3. Demonstrate rock evaluation and describe or demonstrate placing a bolt
4. Name several ways to secure and strengthen stemples, pickets and deadmen anchors
5. Discuss or demonstrate placement of several types of rock climbing protection
6. Describe applications and drawbacks for each of the following:

Natural anchors

Bolts

Tripods, bipods or gin poles

Stemples

Pickets

Deadmen

Rock climbing protection

7. Construct and use of any 5 of the above anchors
8. Discuss and apply principles of force multiplication within multi-point anchors
9. Build and use a multi-point anchor with fixed legs
10. Discuss applications for adjustable leg, multi-point anchors
11. Demonstrate litter rigging using a two working rope systems to negotiate edges with inadequate overhead rigging points,
12. Demonstrate or discuss litter rigging which assists with raising and lowering through narrow cracks, and raising and lowering through small diameter shafts
13. Demonstrate the use of double pulleys in a traveling haul.
14. Describe the applications for and demonstrate the use of 3 types of counterbalance systems

Good/Bad

Great lecture/discussion! Not enough time.

Increase Time by pairing with Critical Angles (30 minutes)

Include objectives on critical angles covered elsewhere

Objectives The student will be able to:

1. Cite the force multipliers / reducers for the critical angles of zero, 60, 90, 120, 150, 160, and 180 degrees
2. Discuss and apply principles of force multiplication and force reduction as they apply at load-sharing anchors, changes of direction, and deviations from vertical.
3. Understand the relationship between force multipliers / force reducers at internal and external angles.
4. Identify points in rigging systems at which applied forces are multiplied or reduced
5. Approximate forces at anchors and tension in the line throughout rigging systems
6. Anticipate load shifts and subsequent resultant forces as a load migrates through a system

Safety Standards

Currently given an hour in the schedule but 30' on the LP

Objectives The student will be able to:

1. Calculate component load ratios and determine system safety factors
- ~~2. Define "belay"~~
3. Identify critical points in a system, such that a failure of a single point would have catastrophic or unacceptable consequences
4. Discuss acceptable consequences and the concept of acceptable risk

5. Discuss situations where redundancy compromises efficiency
6. Critically evaluate rope rescue systems considering Safety & Efficiency

Management

Objectives: Upon completion of this period of instruction, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the identifying characteristics of the Incident Command System
2. Identify key functions in cave rescue incident management
3. List three ways resources may be assigned under ICS
4. Describe task forces commonly employed in cave rescue
5. Define a manageable span of control
6. Define the 5 upper-level functions common to all incidents, and discuss how they are commonly utilized in cave rescue incidents
7. Create an organizational chart showing an appropriate management structure for a small team making an initial response to a cave search incident
8. Discuss the two primary organizational options for maintaining span of control as an incident grows in complexity
9. Discuss the function of the Underground Branch Director and his/her place in the ICS management structure
10. Define who should be the initial Incident Commander, and define his/her primary responsibilities
11. Identify the minimum documentation that should be created by the initial IC and command/general staff

Lesson plan supports this but the talk does not teach how to manage a cave rescue. It is largely redundant with level 1 and 2 material. ICS is important but is a tool for management. It is not management itself.

We need an hour of how to manage cave rescue including table top exercises. We need to go to the next level of Search and talk about POA, how to segment a cave, and how to manage search.

Where will the time come from?

Two options:

-Mild pruning by integrating smaller lecture topics like critical angles.

-Hard pruning but radical deemphasis of highlines.

-If hard pruned, then time for current optional topics like modification and water and certification testing with time for the walk through

Appendix D

Brian D. Ekey, DO

NCRC Board of Regional Coordinators
2020 Meeting Minutes

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February 22, 2020
Approved:

brianekey@gmail.com

Feb 10, 2020

Board of Regional Coordinators

National Cave Rescue Commission

c/o: Anmar Mirza, National Coordinator

anmar.mirza@gmail.com

Re: Medical Officer Report 2020

Progress: The medically minded cavers of the NCRC have been hard at work on multiple fronts. The biggest development has been the creation of a Medical Interest Group (MiG) online. The MiG meets every other month to review data and discuss medical topics pertinent to the NCRC. Recent examples include: spinal motion restriction (c-spine) and blood pressures in a cave (BP). The MiG is open to any interested parties and is publically available for review. The MiG also serves as a repository for medical opinion within the NCRC. It is non-binding but seeks to help direct curriculum decisions with learned opinion and historical perspective.

The Education Committee has also endorsed an overall medical curriculum road map using the task force concept. The Medical Matrix details lectures and learning objectives across Levels 1, 2, and 3. Future curriculum can benefit from cohesive direction and unified progress from level to level. The matrix is a living document and changes to reflect new policy and opinion from the MiG. An example lecture, L1 Hypothermia, was developed to demonstrate sample formatting and presentation style that would be carried forward in new lectures. Draft lesson plans for L2 Med Ops and L3 Med Tech are also being reviewed.

Problems: Medical struggles with excellent input and resources without nearly enough time or manpower to implement everything. Scheduling priorities limit the rate of work output. Conflicting historical attempts at medical progression through the levels also limited the ability to simply update current lectures. Consistent direction and help from members of the MiG will solve many of the problems associated with limited resources.

Plans: Medical will continue to solicit participation in the Medical Interest Group. Medical will continue to seek input to the Medical Matrix. Medical will use the matrix to continue developing new curriculum for all levels. Medical is also in the draft stages of information gathering for consideration of a week long medical specialist class.

Respectfully,

Enclosures: Medical Matrix v200209.pdf

Links: NCRC Medical Interest Group - <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ncrc-mig>

p1/1

Appendix E

Progress

- Started international collaboration on a sump-rescue manual. The manual is now over fifty pages long and includes contributions from cavers in four countries.
- Revalidated the sump call-out list. This included removing some sump divers who are no longer active and recruiting new members.
- Started working on rewriting the Water Problems chapter of the Manual of U.S. Cave Rescue to include high level advice for how to manage and assist sump rescues.

Problems

- There is a trend toward calling on BNCs to conduct sump rescues. We need to increase public awareness that there are many other sump divers around the country who are fully qualified to assist with rescue efforts.

Plans

- Complete the rewrite of the Water Problems chapter
- Convince the ECRA diving section to collaborate on the sump rescue manual instead of writing their own

- Publish a series of 2 or more sump rescue articles in the CDS's publication, Underwater Speleology
- Get myself Level 3 certified

Appendix F



NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION

*Of the National Speleology Society of the United States
Affiliated to the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR)*

CARIBBEAN REGION

Roberto "Bull" MIRANDA PALACIOS
Regional Coordinator

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E-Mail miranda.roberto@outlook.com

February 21, 2020
San Juan, Puerto Rico

To: BORC

RE: Caribbean Region Report

1. No accidents to report.
2. No activities performed on 2019.
3. The contact that was established with the government was fired after a scandal of warehouses full of supply's for Hurricane Maria was found...
4. The calendar of activities for the 2020 year is as follow:
 - a. NCRCPR2020 was re-schedule because of the earthquakes that hit the island at the beginning of the year.
 - b. New dates are Oct 16-24. Camp Elias Burgos, Iglesia Adventista.
 - c. Help that we need from National:
 - i. Curriculum, exams, presentations etc.
 - ii. Receipts were submitted for gear cache.
 - d. We are hoping that Earthquake help us in the filling up of the seminar.

Respectfully



Roberto "Bull" Miranda
NCRC Coordinator

Appendix G



NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION
of the
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
A NASAR Affiliate

Jessica Deli
Central Region Coordinator
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Bedford, IN 47421

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Date of Report: February 17, 2020

Trainings

January 2019: In Cave Emergency Exercises Horizontal (ICEE-H)

-Richard Blenz Nature Preserve, Indiana

-Central Region's new all in cave course. This course is geared towards newer cavers or those whose vertical skills lack proficiency. Students and instructors spend 24-36+ hours in cave and learn to overcome challenges including finding and making camp, conservation during extended stay in cave (including bodily waste disposal), as well as a multitude of skills and techniques in assisting a patient throughout a rigorous horizontal cave environment.

March/April 2019: NCRC Weeklong Preparation Day

A day for students planning on attending Weeklong in May to practice and have questions answered prior to the seminar.

May 2019: National Weeklong Seminar

-Hosted at Camp Rivervale, Mitchell, Indiana

June 2019: Orientation to Cave Rescue

-Hart County, Kentucky

-Sponsored by Hart County SAR

-Mix of cavers and SAR personnel

September 2019: In Cave Emergency Exercises Vertical (ICEE-V)

-Park Mammoth Resort, Kentucky

-Central Region's in cave course. Vertical proficiency must be shown prior to entering in cave.

Students and instructors spend 24-36+ hours in cave and learn to overcome challenges including finding and making camp, conservation during extended stay in cave (including bodily waste

disposal), as well as a multitude of skills and techniques in assisting a patient throughout a rigorous vertical cave environment.

November 2019: Orientation to Cave Rescue

-Mitchell, Indiana

-Sponsored by Indiana Karst Conservancy (IKC)

-Primarily cavers attended, especially IKC members and cave patrons

Work in Progress

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

Increase presence in Region via outreach, training, social medial, etc

CIG Vertical Workshop

Plans

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

May 2020: Orientation to Cave Rescue in Powell, County Kentucky

November/December 2020: 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



National Cave Rescue Commission

of the
National Speleological Society
Eastern Region

Tony Smith
Eastern Region Coordinator
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Report to the Board of Regional Coordinators February 22 2020

Eastern Region Coordinator Report

- Continuing work on Cave Rescue Standards for Virginia Search & Rescue Council (VASARCO).
- 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, 2019 at the OTR site. At said meeting planned Modular L1 and L2 in Blacksburg, VA weekends of March, and an OCR in Martinsburg, WV Oct. 9th-11th. Both classes approved by Training Coordinator. Updated ER Poly and Procedures manual to bring it in accordance with NCRC Policy and Procedures. Purchasing 1-Ferno, and hardware for levels one and two
- ER Web Page updated
- Training Report:
 1. Held an OCR with BCCS in June 28-30, 2019 with 21 students in Bath Co. VA at Butler cave..
- Rescue Report:
 1. J-4 Rescue - overdue man in cave 18 hours to “meditate”, evaded rescuers until saw them running phone wires which he thought were to blow the cave shut.
 2. Cyclops Rescue- 6 adults, technical cave with 4 drops, last of which had 2 redirects, along with a fissure at the top that had to be modified. No vertical gear nor helmets on patients. One patient lost their boots in the mud. In cave 3 days. One patient was able to climb out and call for help. Last person to be rescued started to hallucinate, once the person started moving inappropriate behavior stopped. Having trained rescuers with vertical experience and the ability to both modify passage and set bolts were critical to the successful rescue.

3. Low Moor Rescue – two overdue men, missing 4-5 days, left car at bar and walked to the cave, lost in cave, no lights. Rescuers followed smell of burning clothes. Once located patients were able to walk out.
4. Laurel Caverns – Heart attack- transported out by rescuers

Appendix I

2020 Northeastern Region Report

Submitted: Greg D. Moore
February 22, 2020

Training: Had a very successful SPAR, filled the original class of 12 immediately and had a waitlist, so expanded to 18. Will hold future SPARs in our area, thanks to those who came in from outside the area to help out.

Also had a successful OCR in the fall. However, initially disappointed to have no real interest from local agencies, including the Fire Department that was hosting the OCR. But, the chief joined us on Sunday, helped run IC and definitely came to appreciate the work we were doing and seemed interested in doing more. I invited a reporter to the OCR, which resulted in a Sunday edition, top of the fold, front page news article on us. VERY well done:
<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Cave-rescuers-go-deep-to-help-the-injured-14467450.php>

Planning another OCR later this year, but with the weeklong, have not started. I do not plan on having a SPAR this year, but may reconsider later in the year.

I will be participating in a 1 day wilderness rescue seminar put on by the local hospital. Will be doing a hands-on SKED movement exercise in the afternoon.

Incidents: None that I'm aware of.

Account: Finally moved to the National account. Thanks Gaylene for handling this.

Patches: Northeast Region acquired a number of "Rescue Patches" for resale with proceeds going into our checking account (someday). I have 3 bags with me, approximately 75 in each, available at \$75 or \$2 each. Have plenty more if folks want them.

Update on 2020 National Seminar coming later.

Appendix J

Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator Report for BORC Meeting February 22 2020

RESCUE ACTIVITY

- No technical cave rescues. Received two calls for cave searches due to despondent / suicidal subjects parked at cave entrance. Cave search completed with tactical support. Subjects ultimately located nearby on surface.

EVENTS

- Conducted 1 day show cave incident response course for 18 USFS staff at Lava River Cave, Deschutes County Oregon. Training included a micro-mock that last approximately one hour with a single medical patient in a litter.
- Conducted a 3 day SPAR as a pre-conference seminar for the 60th anniversary Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) conference on Mt Hood, Oregon. Course filled with 18 students from MRA teams nationwide, including several from foreign countries such as Australia, Canada, and Britain.
- Presented a 1 hour lecture and a ½ day outdoor workshop in SPAR techniques adapted for high alpine self-rescue such as crevasse rescue or glacier fumarole rescue.
- Weekend OCR at Oregon Caves National Monument for the National Park Service, and annual PNW event.
- Attended the Indiana National Seminar as a level 3 instructor and the Certification Coordinator for the NCRC's pilot program of certification. Beta tested program on 12 instructors followed by successful execution for all three levels at the seminar.
- Provided cave safety operation and rescue rigging support for the 2019 Mt St Helens rescue pre-planning and science expedition of USFS. Several NCRC instructors and level 3 SPAR graduates participated in this international mapping expedition, which requires we have our own cave rescue capability to gain permit.
- Hosted a 6 day weeklong SPAR at Redmond, Oregon. New expanded water problems prop built from donations utilized with great success. 21 students completed. Several slots comped as part of a regional international exchange program with European Cave Rescue Association. 4 members from Thailand cave rescue, 2 from Italian CNSAS, and one from Croatia (who was also the President of ECRA) attended. Thailand team leader will also attend the Level 1 at New York this summer. CNSAS presented run down of their national cave rescue program and granted 3 slots for PNW instructors.
- Served as the terrestrial delegate for NCRC at the 2019 International Commission of Alpine Rescue (ICAR) congress in Zakopane, Poland along with Roger Mortimer in the medical commission. Attended the cave rescue pre-conference with TOPR. Was assigned as work group leader to compile international proposals to explore the formal integration of cave rescue into ICAR. Presented a SPAR lecture during the terrestrial commission, and ran an all day SPAR techniques demo for the ICAR field day. Both presentations covered in the event video shown at ITRS 2019.
- Requested by Alberta British Columbia Cave Rescue (ABCCR) (former Cana-SPAR grads) to support the first Mt Meager glacier cave study, to determine slope and edifice stability possibly threatening surrounding communities. Required use of PNW specialized air-gas / hazmat SCBA units and monitors. As a result, Draeger donated 3 new AGM's to the glacier cave explorer unit, available for the PNW rescue cache.
- Attended with Mark Dickey at the European Cave Rescue Association (ECRA) 13th annual conference in Croatia. Presented program on special cave rescue consideration for lava caves and glacier caves to terrestrial commission. 95 cavers from 25 member countries in attendance. Conference slots were free as result of SPAR exchange program.
- Hosted the vertical day / self-rescue workshop for the 2019 NSS Western Regional with other NCRC instructors.

Upcoming / Planned 2020 Events:

- Request by Deschutes County Sheriff's Office for a 1 day cave operations orientation on dealing with armed subjects in caves, and downed officer / subject extrications in such situations. Scheduled for April 1.

- 3 day Alpine OCR (blend of SPAR and litter water problems) approved at Fossil Mountain Ice Cave first weekend in August for Teton County SAR and Surrounding units.
- OCR for Oregon Caves NM in June.
- Several attending the Italian CNSAS level 3 weeklong seminar June 27 thru July 5 2020.
- Regional 6 day week long SPAR approved for August 25 thru 30 2020. Thailand and Costa Rica already sending students.
- ICAR in Greece October 2020.
- Registered for ITRS in November 2020
- **NEED DATES FOR 2023 NATIONALS.** Meeting with Expo Center Manager in April.

Appendix K

**National Cave Rescue Commission
Rocky Mountain Regional Report
Winter Meeting 2020
Andy Armstrong**

Recent Rescues / Events

- Sept. 21, 2019, a man is rescued from Toothbrush Cave after being hit on the head and knocked unconscious by a rock. Uintah County SAR responded and conducted the rescue. Ironically, Wayne Morris drove right into the scene of the rescue after asking Andy what to go see in the area and learning of the large scenic entrance just off the road. Uintah County declined Wayne's offer to help

Regional Training

- 3-day SPAR in March 2019 for seven members of the Montana Tears of the Turtle expedition crew plus five other cavers. Class held in St. George, Utah at Gunlock State Park and Bloomington Cave, BLM.

Support for Other Regions

- RMR instructors helped other regions including all levels, OCRs, and SPARs in PNW, SW, SC, and Western Region including an OCR and SPAR in Baker NV on the borderlands between Western and Rocky Mtn. Region.

Appendix L

**National Cave Rescue Commission
South-Central Regional Report**

Winter Meeting 2020

DJ Walker

Recent Events/Activities

- We hosted a very successful Regional Seminar January 31 – February 8, 2020. The seminar sold out in just a few hours after being announced with 30 Level 1 students, 15 Level 2 students (one unfilled cancelation occurred a few days prior to the seminar), and 12 SPAR students. With Instructors, Specialists, and staff we had over 110 people attend.
 - We used Regfox for the first time and found it to be a very good platform, save a few minor inefficiencies (customer support is slow and not great, started charging us for e-mails to participants after the registration launched, etc)
 - For the fifth year in a row we offered a Command and Control class. Covering relevant leadership/management aspects specific to cave rescue for command level personnel who would have the responsibility to command a cave rescue incident. I cannot overstate the success and benefits of this class.
 - The Instructor Recertification Test was offered at the February Regional Seminar, 4 Instructors took the test.
 - We conducted the Certification Testing. We provided feedback to the Eddy and Roger, including recommended updates and adjustments to make the process more efficient. This required approximately 205 “person-hours” of effort before, during, and after to accomplish.
 - Conducting the testing is not a simple add, and anyone who is planning a seminar needs to assign someone who is very detailed oriented to plan and oversee the process. Start the planning well in advance of the seminar. Casey England was our designated person, and I would encourage contacting him for recommendations if you have a seminar planned.
- I have been in discussions with the State of Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) about state resource requests and the EMAC process. The Arkansas Cave Rescue in early 2019 highlighted the importance of knowing your States process for requesting out of state resources.
- I chaired the Instructor Policy Workgroup. We held three conference calls and will be presenting two policies with motions to the BORC for this meeting. Work still needs to be done, primarily to look at instructor attrition and retention.

Plans

- Tentative dates for 2021 SC Regional are being worked on. Will seek approval soon.
- We plan to conduct an OCR in West Texas for the 4th year in a row.
- I hope to continue the work of the Instructor Policy Workgroup to analyze Instructor attrition and offer recommendations for retaining our most valuable organizational asset.

Appendix M

NCRC Southeast Region 2019 BORC Report

Tim White – Regional Coordinator

There were 3 reported accidents in the SE Region in 2019. Two required agency call-out support.

The SE Region was a support and resource for the Virginia cave rescue in Cyclops Cave that occurred in April 2019. Chattanooga/Hamilton County (CHCRS) was rallied and were moments of driving away when requested through the SE NCRC. CHCRS and other cave resources were in route when they received a stand-down.

The Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit and Jackson County Rescue responded to a fatality at SCCi owned Stephen's Gap Cave in Jackson County, AL.

Chattanooga/Hamilton County Cave /Cliff and Jackson County Rescue responded to a fatality at SCCi owned Valhalla Cave in Jackson County, AL.

Appendix N

2019 Southwest Region NCRC Report

February 22, 2020

I (Sarah Truebe) recently became the permanent proxy for the Southwestern Regional Coordinator. As such, I have only been in the position for about three months and am unsure of existing plans. I can speak to what I have been doing, primarily in Arizona, and what my plans are for the region moving forward. Many thanks to previous Regional Coordinator, Bob Rodgers, for his more than a decade-long service to the NCRC.

2019 Rescues

As far as I know, these have all been submitted to the ACA.

- May 26, 2019 - Peppersauce Cave, AZ - knee injury, caver assist, SAR callout
- July 14, 2019 - Lava River Cave, AZ - unknown injury, SAR callout
- July 21, 2019 - Coronado Cave, AZ - ankle injury, SAR callout
- Unknown if there were any 2019 incidents in New Mexico

Progress

Trainings

- 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, which will hopefully continue as we increase the number of instructors in AZ/NM.
- 2019 in-region trainings:
 - OCR Tucson - October 2019 (Lead: Bonny Armstrong)
 - OCR Carlsbad - October 2019 (Lead: Andy Armstrong)
 - Speciality non-NCRC cave trainings (only know of AZ - Pima County, Cochise County, Border Patrol)

Rescue Preparedness

- CaveSME program in AZ, AlertSense Callout (pending) - hosted by Cochise County
 - The Cave Subject Matter Expert Program provides cavers an opportunity to attend the basic trainings required to be an Arizona SAR volunteer (First Aid, CPR, Blood-Borne Pathogens, background check, AZ Basic SAR Academy (16 hours), NIMS 100/700). If cavers complete these requirements, they can be called out to incidents to assist first responders underground. 43 people are currently registered with around 10 having completed the requirements in the first year of the program. Costs are covered by the participants themselves, but if they are called out to an incident, they receive Worker's Comp coverage through Pima County.
- Trainings with first responders in Pima and Cochise Counties, plus Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR)

Plans

- 1 OCR per year per state, rotating locations
- "Cave Rescue on the Border" (Nov 8-16), Sierra Vista, AZ - weeklong seminar (paperwork pending on cave approval)
- SPAR courses when requested - but 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

Problems

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

Appendix O

Western Region Report

No rescues

OCR in Nevada led by Gretchen
WRC assisted teaching SPAR for MRA in PNW

Problems: WR cache needs new tires

Plans: Early discussion for an OCR in Hawaii
Stand down

Appendix P

To: NCRC BORC

From: Marty Reames, NCRC Scholarship Chair

Date: February 7th, 2020

Subject: 2020 Report on NCRC Scholarship Program

This document is the 2020 annual report to the BORC on NCRC's Scholarship program.

Changes since last year

In May 2019 the National Coordinator appointed me, Marty Reames, the new NCRC Scholarship Chair. A huge thank you to Roger Mortimer for leading the program over the last several years. For the last seven years I have been a scholarship judge for a local community college and I look forward to bringing that experience to NCRC to further mature our program especially in light of the generous donation received in early 2019.

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 2019-2020 NSS Fiscal year, \$1500 has been available for the NCRC Scholarship fund.

Training	Total Amount Available	Total Amount Awarded	# of Scholarships Awarded	Amount per scholarship
Nationals in Indiana May 2019	\$1,125	\$350	1	\$350

Eastern Regionals March 2020	\$375	\$125*	1*	\$125
Totals	\$,1500	\$475	2	

**Only one application has been received at the time of writing this report for the Eastern Regionals. The amount actually awarded may vary between \$0-\$375.*

Due to the change in the management of the scholarship fund and development of the process for Regional scholarships, the amount of scholarships distributed in the 2019-2020 NSS fiscal year has been low. It is anticipated that more scholarships will be awarded in future years.

Scholarship judges for 2020

For the 2020 calendar year the following individuals have volunteered to serve 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

For the 2021 calendar year, representation will be requested from the Southeastern, Caribbean, Rocky Mountain, Western, and Pacific Northwestern regions.

Scholarship plans for NSS 2020-2021 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, 15 individuals have requested the scholarship application and 6 have started to turn in completed applications and/or letters of recommendation. Applications are due by March 14th and the scholarship awardees will be determined and announced by mid April.

Scholarships for Regional week-long trainings 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.

2

Please note: I will be unresponsive to email mid-Aug thru mid-Sept (I will be hiking across Switzerland), thus if you have Regional training in the second half of 2020 and you would like to request scholarships for the training, please submit your request before early August.

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

