

NCRC BORG Meeting

Location: Virtual Meeting

Date: **October 24, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

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

Recording Secretary: Marty Reames

In Attendance

BORG: 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, PNW - John Panches, SE - Brandon Powers

No Proxies for Eastern, Caribbean, or Medical

NCRC Volunteer Position Holders: Marty Reames, Rich Pumplin, Casey England, Berta Walker, and Rebecca Segrest

16 total

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss two topics:

- Budget for 2023 Mentone seminar
- Haul command changes

As a result, the structure was different than that followed during typical BORG meetings

Proposed Changes to Meeting Agenda – N/A

Approval of 2022 August meeting minutes – N/A

1. Reports of Officers

- a) National Coordinator - Gretchen reported that effective in two days Christy Starr is resigning from the NSS; refer to Berta Walker for NCRC financial information and for checks. The passing of Eric Hahn in a cave diving incident is a sad day for the cave rescue community. On a positive note, South Dakota had a successful cave rescue; the recent OCR helped prepare responders for the incident.
- b) Training Coordinator - Mel reported that letters to potential IQ candidates will be sent out next week.

2. Reports of Committees

N/A

3. Old Business

- a) Budget for 2023 Mentone seminar - There was extensive discussion regarding the budget for the upcoming National seminar.
 - a. Rebecca shared budget numbers and Grethen shared the current amounts in various National accounts. The budget numbers took into consideration a likely 20% increase in food expenses and also assumed that all of the classes would be full; bringing the total student count to 86 with 39 instructors. Registration is not yet open until the registration fee is determined. The estimated cost came to \$1,070.86 per student. If the student fee was decreased to \$970, then the seminar would run at a loss around \$8,000.
 - b. There was significant discussion on various ways the loss could be covered, including potential funds from the NSS and sponsorships. Food is the biggest cost and we don't think we have the option to bring in outside caterers for this venue. It was pointed out that \$1,000 for a week of rescue training is very inexpensive; however, from a caver perspective it is a significant sum.
 - c. There was discussion on what the registration fee should be. It was noted that breaking the \$1,000 barrier will be necessary at some point, but feels like a psychological hit right now. It was also pointed out that it is not a good idea to run our seminars at a loss. **SC moved that we set registration at \$1,100 per student including providing a book to L1 students, PNW seconded, motion passed.**
 - d. Options for offsetting the costs with scholarships were discussed. The existing scholarship application process was reviewed as well as funds available from the NCRC Scholarship fund over the last three years. Due to training being unavailable due to covid, all of the funds have not been used and as a result the amount available each year has slowly been increasing. To make the application process smoother, it was suggested to add the scholarship application questions into the registration form for those interested in applying. The applicants would still be responsible outside of RegFox for providing supporting optional documentation (i.e. caving resume) and two letters of recommendation. **Northeast Moves that the BORC guarantee a minimum of \$9000 in scholarship funds for the National training. Money first to come from the NCRC Scholarship fund and any difference to be made up from the NCRC National Fund. A minimum of 20 scholarships at \$200 be offered with additional funds to be offered per the recommendations of the scholarship committee, SC seconds, motion passed.**

4. New Business

- a) Haul Command Changes - Mel presented the changes to the haul commands that the Education Committee has unanimously approved. The most significant impact involves changing the commands "haul set slack" to "stop set reset". Some minor wording changes to remove references to the main line and belay line are also needed. There was discussion regarding the use of the word "stop" to be reserved for safety issues. After several minutes, it was reminded

that everyone had been invited to the meetings where this was discussed and at those meetings was where the opportunity existed to challenge the command wording change. **TC moved that the BORC approve the Education Committee decision on Haul Command Changes as presented, SC seconds, motion passed.**

- b) SPAR Lead extension - Clarification was requested on if the extension for instructors to have until the end of 2023 to remain current also applied to SPAR leads. The answer is yes.

5. Announcements (from agenda)

The next scheduled meeting will be in February.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm PT.