

NCRC BORC Meeting Minutes

October 23rd, 2023 via Zoom

Call to Order

6 pm PDT/9 pm EDT by Gretchen Baker

Recording Secretary: Laura Demarest

In Attendance

Gretchen Baker (NC), Mel Eady-Pumplin (TC), DJ Walker (SC), Sarah Truebe (SW), Zeb Lilly (Diving), Brian Ekey, (Medical), Rene Ohms (RM), Greg Moore (NE), David Angel (WR), Berta Walker (Finance), Brandon Powers (SE), Laura Demarest (Recording Secretary), Billy Chrimes (EC), Casey England (EC, Certification)

Proxies: none

Gretchen welcomed everyone, conducted roll call, and acknowledged proxies - 14 total attendees

Proposed changes to meeting agenda - None

Approval of 2023 July BORC meeting minutes

SC moved to accept July meeting minutes. Medical seconded. Approved by vote.

Officer Reports

National Coordinator – Gretchen gave an update on the all-instructor meeting held September 22nd. Most of her time in the past month has been spent debriefing/handling requests related to the Morca Cave rescue incident, including an abundance of international communication. She described their use of a shareable Google Spreadsheet distributed to other rescue personnel which was helpful (even if not in English). Google Forms was also helpful when it came to coordinating a list of volunteers who had been willing to respond as a rescuer. A GoFundMe was set-up and managed by Stephanie Suen, which she handled well. Amanda Mortimer also consulted on psychological care options in case the outcome of the rescue was negative. She and other appointed volunteers conducted many interviews and learned some valuable lessons about how information is circulated. She also prepared a widespread press release which was circulated following the incident's conclusion and sent numerous 'thank you' acknowledgements on behalf of NCRC.

Gretchen conducted debriefing with those who were directly involved with the incident, ECRA representatives, rescuers, government officials, and other participants. She also prepped NCRC representatives for the ECRA conference so they could answer any questions as necessary. One of the final tasks related to the Morca rescue has been to disperse funds from the GoFundMe donations and close-out the finances. Follow-up duties related to this incident have been time-consuming.

Aside from tasks related to the Morca incident, she prepared a report for NSS Board of Governors, consulted on the NCRC budget, and fielded several requests for rescue training including one from Malaysia.

Training Coordinator – Mel Eady-Pumplin submitted a written report and shared highlights including some updates about EdComm curriculum developments. Files are currently being moved to the caves.org Google Drive for permanent storage (they are currently housed on Gretchen's caves.org Google Drive). Interest Groups are still meeting each month for the most part and EdComm has discussed long-term sustainability for keeping participation 'fresh'. They are looking to take off the month of December and then proceed on an every other month schedule. Participation varies depending on topic and schedules.

The Instructional Design interest group shared a file with other interest groups that included classroom templates and instructions about how to write an effective lesson plan. A lesson plan template for teaching in the field is coming soon.

Blacksburg, Virginia just conducted a modular Level 1 and 2 with a lot of classroom lecture components conducted using Google classroom tools. Billy is still working on tasks related to NCRC's transition to the Google Platform. Mel also interfaced with Hazel Barton about copies of their new Vertical Training Commission Level 1 manual, which will be shared with NCRC officers for review. She is also updating the current instructor list to track statuses and expiration. In addition, she is creating a 'paperwork' checklist for NCRC participants to track progress, etc. Regional Coordinator assistance is requested to help improve paperwork for course requests, follow-ups, etc. Database submission forms may not be functioning so Mel is working to update and organize these accordingly.

For upcoming events, the next EdComm mtg will be on Nov. 13th and a winter work meeting will be hosted at Mel's house Dec 8-10 (in-person + Zoom). IQ letters went to candidates and the application period is open. 53 students are eligible and a number of them have expressed interest. Upcoming trainings include an OCR in eastern region and a SPAR in the southeastern region.

Finance - Berta Walker reported that \$69,479 was the total of the Morca Rescue GoFundMe fundraiser which has been dispersed.

Additional Updates

- No Regional Officer reports submitted
- Michael Raymond submitted a report from his recent visit to the ECRA conference which is attached.
- Dav reported on a recent incident in California involving a patient who was successfully rescued from a crack and crevice entrapment that included some creative vertical rigging. A report will be submitted to ACA.

Committee Reports

Education Committee – in TC report

Interest Groups update – in TC report

2024 National Seminar update – Greg and Berta have discussed the budget and it has been decided that registration will open on Dec. 10 registration with a participant cost of \$900. There is a pre-registration email opportunity for interested individuals to sign up to be notified when registration is open. Greg will start marketing more in the next few weeks. He, Cecily, and Ekey have been discussing a 'TOTS' class and will report back if this is a feasible offer for the upcoming seminar. Mel will send out a separate DYWTT email and Greg is working on setting up the instructor registration page now. A Facebook group has been established for the seminar and Gretchen will share info on the NCRC Facebook page as well.

Old Business

n/a

New Business

NCRC Draft Mission Statement – *“The National Cave Rescue Commission, as chartered by the [National Speleological Society](#), develops, maintains, and disseminates the core requisite knowledge, skills, and resources related to cave rescue for those who recreate, work in, or provide emergency response to the cave environment. Through quality training and public education that stresses stewardship and conservation, we strive to facilitate the best possible outcomes for those in need. Learn more at <https://ncrc.info/>”* Some had some notes on wordsmithing before final approval.

Aftermath of Morca Cave Rescue – Most details were covered in Gretchen's report and no other discussion ensued.

Winter Meeting – March 2nd was discussed as an option though it was pointed out that the BORC made a motion in the past to keep it on the last weekend of February. This would be a Zoom meeting, possibly several hours long. It was officially decided to have it on Saturday, February 24th @ 8:00am PDT/11:00 EDT

Instructor Retreat – Last year’s meeting was quite productive, so Mel and others have discussed trying to schedule another, either in late spring (April) or another time, possibly September. Mel is considering using the Petzl facility in Utah in the future. This would be an in-person retreat with a possible Zoom option to tune in for some portions. Consensus from those present favored a September instructor retreat time or to possibly combine it with the Winter BORC meeting. Is a retreat necessary every year? Perhaps every other year may be better? At this time, the aim is to host one in 2025.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024 9:00pm EDT/6:00 pm PDT

Other – Dav is the election chair and some discussion ensued about open positions

Announcements – The NSS Awards deadline is November 15th. Any nominations? Gretchen is willing to help write recommendation letters and encourages others to do the same.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:01 pm EDT/7:01 PDT