

NCRC Winter Meeting 2018 Minutes

Walker Co. 911 Center, Walker Co. GA, USA, Earth.

Date Saturday February 24, 2018,

Meeting Called to order by National Coordinator Anmar Mirza 0902 EST

Call to order

Roll Call and Acknowledgment of Proxies.

Anmar Mirza National Coordinator
Greg Moore - Northeast Region
Tony Smith - Eastern Region
Tim White - Southeast Region
Anmar Mirza proxy for Roberto Miranda Palacios- Caribbean Region
Jessica Deli - Central Region Coordinator
D.J. Walker - South Central Region
Andy Armstrong - Rocky Mountain Region
Bob Rodgers - Southwest Region –via teleconference link
Roger Mortimer - Western Region
Andy Armstrong - Rocky Mountain Region
Eddy Cartaya - Pacific Northwest
Steve Mosberg - Medical Coordinator
Forrest Wilson - Diving Coordinator
John Panches – Training Coordinator –via teleconference link

Guests:

Diane Cousineau
Randi Moore
Cathi Borer
Brian Ekey
Bonny Armstrong
Barb Williams

Reports:

Finance Report – Appendix A
IT Report – Appendix B

Coordinator Reports:

National Coordinator – Appendix C
Training Coordinator – Appendix D
Medical Coordinator – Appendix E
Diving Officer – Appendix F

Regional Coordinator Reports

Caribbean Region – Appendix G

Central Region – Appendix H
Eastern Region – Appendix I
Northeastern Region – Appendix J
Pacific Northwest Region – Appendix K
Rocky Mountain Region – Appendix L
South Central Region – Appendix M
Southeastern Region – Appendix N
Southwestern Region – Appendix O
Western Region – Appendix P

2017 Seminar Wrap Up- Cartaya

All bills paid
Site is happy to have us come back

2018 Seminar Update- Mentone Alabama

Seminar is on track
Instructor assignments going out shortly

2019 Seminar Update- Corydon Indiana

O'Bannon Woods State Park
May dates 10-18 for Indiana 2019
Federal WNS restrictions lifted for Hoosier Nat forest, will likely open up other caves.
Negotiating with state for lower price for facility usage. Would like registration ready to open by
May 2018 but may not happen
South Central moves that we accept NY for 2020 and VA for 2021
Southeast seconds

11 yes
2 no
1 abstain

Motion carried

2020 Seminar – New York
2021 Seminar - Virginia

BORC will start soliciting bids for 2022 and 2023
DJ will send out e-mail to instructor group for bids for 2022 and 2023
Anmar asks that each region solicit bids for 2022 and 2023

Endowed Scholarship Report: Mortimer

5 \$350.00 Scholarships
8 applicants, application deadline past, committee will be finalizing decision shortly

Education Committee Report: Panches – Appendix Q

South Central moves to accept all EC documents as presented: L1 rigging, L1 PT assessment
Eastern 2nd

Yes 14
No abstain

Motion Passes

Steve Hudson award –Mortimer

Nominee was chosen in closed session.

Acknowledgement of online BORC votes –please review them prior to the meeting, this is just to acknowledge that this body held the votes, not to revote on them. If you have not registered your vote, do so online.

Southwestern moves: the minutes from the 2017 winter meeting of the BORC be approved as written.

Diving Seconds

Motion passes.

Training moves that the L1 Search curriculum revision v170403 be approved. This includes the PPT and lesson plan shared in advance of the May 17 conference call.

Eastern seconds

Motion passes

Training moves that L1 Media Interactions v170517working be approved as presented.

NE Seconds

Motion passes

Phone Conference Minutes Approval – Appendix R

Distributed prior to the meeting to be posted on the web site

Elections:

BORC Positions to fill:

National: Anmar Mirza elected

PNW: Eddy Cartaya, elected

Eastern: Tony Smith elected

Central: Jess Deli elected

Medical: Brian Ekey elected

EC Positions reorg

South-Central moves that the Education Committee position that expired in the Summer of 2017 be elected at the 2018 Winter BORC meeting and be re-elected at subsequent Winter meetings following its current a two year term cycle.

PNW second

13 Yah

1 abstention

Motion passes

South-Central moves that the term of the Education Committee position that expires in the Summer of 2018 be extended to the Winter of 2019. The next re-election for this position will be at the 2019 Winter BORC meeting, and be re-elected at subsequent Winter meetings following its current a two year term cycle.

Medical Director (Mosberg) second

13 Yes

1 abstention

Motion passes

National Training Coordinator moves that the term of the Education Committee position that expires in the Summer of 2019 be shortened to the Winter of 2019. The next re-election for this position will be at the 2019 Winter BORC meeting, and be re-elected at subsequent Winter meetings following its current a two year term cycle

Rocky mountain second

13 Yes

1 abstention

Motion passes

Education Committee Position at large:

Winter 2018 EC appointments:

Mel Eady-Pumplin

Jonathan Wilson

Cathy Borer

Education Committee Action Items- Punches

Old Business

Fixed sites:

Was solution for lack of site bids, not currently a problem. BORC will evaluate going forward.

Cave rescue training standards/certifications: Eddy got good feedback. We are close to a resolution.

2018 Budget:

Budget e-mailed to BORC. See Appendix R

Western moves to approve budget as submitted

Rocky Mountain second

13 yes

1 abstain

Motion Passes

New Business

ICAR Membership for NCRC:

PNW moves that NCRC complete an application for class B1 or 2 membership into ICAR. Application will be prepared for review by BORG NLT March 31 2018 with a subsequent vote to approve the application as presented.

Western second motion.

SE feels that going B1 is important. B1 affords NCRC more delegates.

Diving, friendly amendment. That BORG pick level to vote on. B1

13 yes

One abstention

Motion passes

Discussion Items

Release forms update

We need to update liability waivers. BORG was sent new draft from NSS asked to review waivers and report back at next phone conference.

Code of Conduct policy violation issues

MOTION from National Training Coordinator: No consumption of alcohol while instructing or participating in instruction, or in close proximity to other persons engaged in instruction.

Eastern Seconds.

Friendly amendment Medical Officer; remove the word close

Bob Roger Or other intoxicants

Motion initiators agreed.

Yes 7

No 3

Abstain 3

Motion passed

Medical makes motion that National Coordinator be instructed by BORG to contact instructors involved in these incidents and discuss the events reported.

Second: Western seconded motion.

Discussion about if BORG should be directing NC to make action to parties involved

2 Favor

4 abstain

8 Nay

Motion fails

Open

Announcements

ITRS Sponsorship:

NCRC is a co-sponsor of ITRS

This will be placed on our website.

2019 Winter meeting of BORG Saturday February 23

Chatanooga

BORC authorizes to help reimburse some cost incurred by those who travel furthest, total among all requesting not to exceed \$1000

Meeting adjourned 1808 EST

Appendix A:

*NCRC FINANCE OFFICER
Report
Spring BORC Meeting
February 10, 2018*

NCRC Finances:

Regional Coordinators and their treasurers have worked well with the NCRC Finance officer. Monthly reviews of the banks statements have not found any concerns that need to be address. I thank you for your timely answers to my questions! I have attached the NCRC Finances as of December 31,2017.

Bank Accounts:

NSS has a board act that requires every bank account that uses the NSS EIN number to have the NSS Secretary-Treasurer and one other officer as authorized signers on the account. We are currently at all but one of the NCRC banks accounts up to date. The regional coordinator is currently working with the NSS Treasurer to accomplish this task.

Budget:

The 2018-2019 Budget is attached to this report. I have reviewed what was budgeted last year and actual expenses up to December 31, 2017. Statements for January 2018 have not been received at the time this report was created. No major changes have been made to the 2018-2019 budget. Currently, there is approximately \$9,000 for contingencies. There may be some expenses related to the certification approval.

Event fees and documents:

Thank you to all the coordinators and their designees for the timely submission of fees and required documentation. This area has improved greatly.

Respectfully submitted,
Gaylene Speaect
NCRC Finance Officer

Appendix B:

Database Report for 2017

Greg D. Moore

Submitted: 2018-02-24

Data breakdown

The database shows 16 classes were taught last year:

- 1 National
- 1 Regional
- 6 SPR
- 7 OCR
- 1 Other

Individual Breakdown

- 402 non-instructors unique individuals participated in training
- 101 instructors participated in training Student Breakdown (this includes instructors teaching multiple times)
- 54 Level 1 students
- 35 Level 2 students
- 9 Level 3 students
- 0 IQ students
- 15 TOFE Students ?
- 149 OCR students
- 65 SPR students
- 49 Specialists
- 12 Staff
- 1 Guests
- 14 Other

Note: numbers may not add up to 402 as some individuals may have taken a course more than once or may have served in a staff or specialist position in addition to being a student or other role in another class.

Database contains

7070 individuals. This is up from 6829 individuals in 2016. Some go as far back as the first National taught.

365 total courses taught (we have data for 315)

- 39 Nationals
- 89 Regionals
- 210 OCRs

- 14 SPR
- 11 “Other”

Student Totals

- 30 DNC since we started tracking
- 2633 Level 1 students
- 978 Level 2 Students
- 479 Level 3 Students
- 179 IQ Students
- 71 TOFE
- 4099 OCR Students
- 163 SPAR
- 32 Other
- 310 Specialists

Note numbers do not add up to above totals since these are not unique individuals, but number “spots” filled.

Other Updates

- Added “Radius Search” to Database page
- Updated “Intake Program” to make ingestion of data much faster. Makes it even more critical spreadsheet used properly!

Future plans

- Allow more self-service options
- Possible integration with RegOnline
- Try to track down more incomplete data
- Changes if necessary for Certification process
- Or consider commercial database

Reminders

For all courses, 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. Some of you are using an older version. This makes the import a bit harder. Also, Information for everyone, including instructors is required. At the very least, put in their email address. W/o this instructors and staff and others will not get credit in the database for teaching and this can also lead to duplicate entries listing an a person more than once with different courses, even though they’re the same person.

NCRC # != NSS # when filling this out. If you don’t know your NCRC number (and most don’t and that’s ok) 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.

Appendix C:

Between the Fall conference call and the winter meeting I spent approximately 120 hours on non-training NCRC business.

I participated in the monthly EC conference calls.

Assisted with planning of the 2018 and 2019 seminars.

Filed the Fall and Winter NSS BOG reports.

Assisted Diane C. and John P. in addressing providing feedback for the proposed FEMA cave rescue resource typing during public commentary.

Addressed NSS executive committee concerns brought to me regarding NCRC actions.

Answered cave rescue related questions from two BOG members.

Authorized payment of the bills and expenses.

Responded to approximately 25 requests from the media.

Assisted Rocky Mountain Region with resource coordination for a Jan 8 rescue.

Assisted other regions with various concerns and needs.

Appendix D:

<I could not find an electronic version of this report, this is from the notes taken of the oral report during the meeting>

Busy with L1 rigging.

working TTRS rope system in to curriculum

Reformatting skill sheets and removing curricula no longer in curricula'

Working on SPAR rebelay

Rich working on SPAR handbook to update and formatting

New updated version of L1 student test to be inline with New current L1 curricula.

Working with Diane Cousineau for Mentone 2018 National Seminar

Will be contacting lead instructors, leads will pick instructors for 2018 seminar in March

Last 2 National Seminars potential serious incidents lead to process to internal review of those incidents and feedback from many is that process is not doing objective job of addressing the situations, we are following current policy that level lead conduct investigation. Will level lead be objective? We need to seek way to not put level lead in that situation. Maybe someone else conduct investigation.

What information do we want to gather during incident debriefing?

Appendix E:

Report to the Board of Regional Coordinators, NCRC, February 24, 2018

Since the last BORC meeting:

1. I was unable to attend National Seminar.
2. I was not able to attend the Education Committee work Weekend in November.
3. At the instruction of the NC, I ordered additional BP cuffs and stethoscopes for the cache. Unbeknownst to me, The TC instructed the manager of the cache to order additional BP cuffs and stethoscopes. In the future, it would be prudent to coordinate ALL equipment purchases through one individual, be it the NC, TC, or some other individual.
4. The First Aid kits were re-packaged in .50 caliber ammunition boxes. I have not received any feed back on their utility.
5. The orange mini-coolers which were the original First Aid Kits, which were never intended to be cave-worthy, and which I purchased with my own money and donated to NCRC's use, are in the back of my truck. If anyone wants them back, they are welcome to them.

Regarding the National Seminar, I was not made aware of any medical issues.

In the future, the Medical Coordinator will need to:

1. Continue to monitor follow up after National Seminars. The question arises as to whether a similar follow up should be initiated after regional seminars as well. That is a decision I will leave to the next Medical Coordinator.
2. Monitor the status of the Medical curriculum, First Aid Kits, and other First Aid Equipment.
3. Consider the purchase of remote temperature monitors (Indoor/Outdoor Thermometers) so that students can practice correct packaging.

On a closing note, I began this journey because I felt the First Aid Curriculum could be improved from when I took Level 1 and 2. With the hard work of the Education Committee, I think this has been accomplished.

From the beginning of my role as Medical Coordinator, I have been concerned about the growing emphasis on vertical caving and technical rigging and the resulting de-emphasis on other, equally important aspects of cave rescue.

I hope the Ed Committee and the BORC will continue to find a reasonable balance, given the time limitations.

I am also concerned about the rising cost of attending a weeklong seminar. I fear that the NCRC is pricing itself out of the reach of many average cavers. I can only hope that the BORC remains mindful of this in coming years.

Thank you for your years of service, keep up the good work, and safe caving.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Mosberg
20444FE

Appendix F:

<from notes taken on the oral report presented at the meeting>

Not many RESCUES to report

Silver Glen 12-28-17, death of free diver in cavern

Eagles Nest two incidents: 1-20-18 fully trained cave diver made rapid ascent. Medical?

1-8-17 Fully trained cave diver, on a rebreather. Started choking then passed out. We suspect it was Laryngospasm

Devil's Eye, Fully trained cave diver. Solo on scooter, ran out of gas(air) shortly before reaching his staged tank. We suspect bad gas planning. Diver was known to take short cuts.

Forest related story of personal experience where rebreather had mechanical failure. Resulting inhalation of water and resulting laryngospasm lead to him experiencing significant trouble, getting air through multiple devices.

Appendix G:

Caribbean Region Report.

1. Sorry for not been able to attend. Serve this report as a Proxy for Anmar Mirza.

2. No accidents to report.

3. No activities performed on 2017.

4. The calendar of activities for the 2018 year is as follow:

a. 2 BCRO's, information regarding dates and people in charge will be send out shortly.

b. We are trying to do a weeklong seminar, but we haven't found a place to perform it yet.

5. It is our understanding that most of the region instructors are on the verge of expiring their certification. I respectfully request to you guys to give us until 2018, were we are planning to perform a regional, to keep our instructor standing until then.

<Item 6 deleted by NC as it pertained to voting instructions for BORC and EC candidates>

Appendix H:

Date of Report: February 24, 2018

Trainings

April 2017: Orientation to Cave Rescue

Bloomington, Indiana

Sponsored by Caving Club at Indiana University

Unlimited number of attendees

CCIU requires OCR for trip leader status

August 2017: Orientation to Cave Rescue

Minnesota

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF RESPONSE FROM REQUESTING PARTY

September 2017: Orientation to Cave Rescue

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Sponsored by RBMSP for park employees, first responders, and local cavers

October 2017: Orientation to Cave Rescue

Jessamine County, KY

Sponsored by Jessamine County DHS

Rescues

Doghill-Donnahue Cave Bedford, IN September 2017

Called out to a missing person possibly located in a cave. Had been missing for

4 days.

Police 'pinged' cell phone near cave. Anmar and Jess responded along with two IDNR

Conservation Officers. Found missing man *and* girlfriend approximately 1,000 feet into cave. Out of light, but otherwise unhurt. Ambulatory and self evacuated after brief medical evaluation.

Received certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by local

Representative.

Sullivan Cave Lawrence County, IN September 2017

An Indiana University student was locked inside the cave after a Cave Club outing. The trip entered the cave on Sunday morning and the student was discovered missing late Tuesday evening. The trip leaders returned to the cave to find the student at the entrance—besides hungry, no injuries were reported.

Work in Progress

Increase presence in Region via outreach, training, social media, etc
CIG Vertical Workshop

Plans

March 2018: NCRC Weeklong Preparation Day

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

April 2018: Orientation to Cave Rescue
Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve (GSP)

May 2018: Orientation to Cave Rescue
Mammoth Cave National Park

May 2019: National Weeklong Seminar

Continued work to sponsor the weeklong seminar at O'Bannon Woods May 10-18, 2019.

Problems

Lack of feedback from instructors within the Region

Other

N/A

Appendix I:

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 3, 2017 at the OTR site. At said meeting we appointed a new position; Resource Coordination Section Chief.
- Web Page updated
- Updated VA Sub Regional Coordinators
- Added two deputies to the WV Sub Regional Coordinators
- Held a SPAR in September 22-24 with 15 students in Blacksburg, VA
- Held a Level 1 Modular Class in Blacksburg, VA. Oct 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, Nov 4, and 5.
- Scheduled an OCR at Chimney Rock State Park NC April 13-15, 2018

- Working with PADEM to provide an OCR at Franklin County Department of Emergency Services in June.
- Continue working with Blacksburg Rescue Squad and their Cave Rescue Team.
- Bought needed supplies for three Medical kits.
- Rescue Report:
 1. Assisted with Coordination of rescue of an overdue caver in Tennessee.

Appendix J:

2018 Northeastern Region Report

Submitted: Greg D. Moore
February 24, 2018

Training: Two OCRs occurred last year. One in NJ and one in Schoharie NY. Good turn out for both. My alma mater sent several students and it is now part of their budget to send students to training (and 2 will be attending weeklong.)

Incidents: Only one that I'm aware of. A call-out in VT. Took advantage of the NCRC database "radius search" to draw up call out sheet and Ian made calls while I drove. Biggest issue, as I expected was that most of the folks on the list... were in the cave. But did get Scott S. and two RPI students to show up just as rescue was over. Ian has now done his first official cave rescue and brought a lawn chair.

Check Book: The saga continues. Due to changes at the BOG level, need new signature cards and the current bank claims you have to come "in person" to sign signature cards. Gaylene some isn't willing, at her own expense to fly to NY just to sign a piece of paper. Looking at other banks. Gaylene and I have it under control.

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.

And, later business: Putting in bid for 2020.

Appendix K:

Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator Report for BORC Meeting February 24 2019

- Taught a custom ICS for Caver Rescue Management course and Table top Clackamas County SAR deputies. Course included a custom made ICS for Cave Rescue spiral bound field guide, that was approved by the TC.

- Hosted the 2017 National Seminar at Redmond Oregon. 69 students, 28 instructors. Participated in seminar as TOFE instructor.
- Rescue in Bessie Butte Pit cave, a confined space pit cave in Deschutes National Forest. Group of kids built a 35 foot improvised rope ladder out of tow strap and nails. One fell during the climb out. Bend fire and Deschutes County Mountain / Cave rescue responded. 25 total responders. Patient sustained leg and lower back injury.
- Rescue preplanning survey and junction markers installed at East Crater cave on Mt Rainier. Completed survey of West Crater Cave, which included dirty air survey in lower levels. A rescue pre-planning map is being prepared for Mt Rainier National Park.
- Gresham fire donated 2 SCBA units to the PNW cache for the volcanic gas rescue potential in regional caves. Have several MRA members in two teams certified in usage thus far.
- Pre-planning weekend at Cave Ridge, Washington to inspect and restock rescue caches in Newton Cave and surface rescue caches.
- 4 day SPAR held at Redmond, Oregon

Upcoming Projects:

- 4 ½ day SPAR coming up in Canada, at Banff National Park with Alberta British Columbia Cave Rescue.
- Bend Fire has requested an OCR for their north station crew based on needs identified in the Bessie Butte pit cave rescue. Dates still pending.
- OCR scheduled for June 3rd at Oregon Caves National Monument, John Panches will be lead.
- Weeklong / 5 day SPAR approved and scheduled for September in Redmond
- Getting a canyon prop built by Andrew Blackstock to add to the Alpine Caving training tower facility in Redmond.
- Requested to present a cave rescue pre-planning and operations talk at ICAR in Chamonix this October.
- Requested by MRA to present a 3 day SPAR course as the pre-conference seminar of the 2019 MRA annual conference at Mt Hood, Oregon June 2019. Coordinating with site coordinator Dave Clarke.

Appendix L:

**National Cave Rescue Commission
Rocky Mountain Regional Report
Winter Meeting 2018
Andy Armstrong**

Organization

- Region organized into State Coordinator System :

Colorado - Marty Reames, Colorado Cave Rescue Network Chair

Idaho – Pending

Montana - Kevin Grabinski, Lewis and Clark County SAR Captain, Helena

N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Nebraska - Marc Ohms, Wind Cave National Park Cave

Technician

Utah - Rodney Mulder, Salt Lake Grotto Chairman

Wyoming - Rene Ohms, Devils Tower National Monument Chief of Resource

Mgt.

Recent Rescues / Events

- **July 14, 2017 - Natural Trap Cave, Wyoming:** A paleontologist working on the dig got his hair caught in his descender. A BLM permit requires that all SRT is belayed on a separate dynamic line. The belayer converted the belay rope into a 3:1 in order to unload the descender. The patient was then able to remove his hair from the descender and continue his rappel.
- **July 29, 2017 – Fulford Cave, Colorado:** While scouting Fulford Cave for an upcoming SPAR course, three NCRC instructors encountered two men wearing t-shirts, shorts, and sandals upon a ledge in the 38-degree cave. The men were lost, and could not figure out how to get down from the ledge. They were assisted down from the ledge and escorted from the cave.
- **January 7-8, 2018 - Little Brush Creek Cave, Utah:** Three patients rescued from a pit series near the entrance of the cave involving two 60' pits and an 80-footer. Two patients were hypothermic but otherwise unhurt, were assisted from the cave from a landing below the 60' pits but above the 80' pit. One patient had fallen down the 80' pit, sustaining multiple serious injuries. Patient was delivered to life flight helicopter after a 14-hour rescue effort.

Response was from Uintah County SAR, Vernal FD, Salt Lake FD, Wasatch County SAR, Utah County SAR, and cavers dispatched by NCRC Rocky Mtn. Region. Approx. 30 rescuers on site. 10 cavers from Utah responded. 13 cavers dispatched from Front Range of Colorado (6 hours away), most were turned around after about 2 hours of driving. 7 cavers on standby, ready to drive 9 hours from South Dakota. Western Region on standby. Incident was a good test of our regional phone tree dispatch system, region was contacted by AHJ early in the incident.

Regional Training

- **October 2017 – SPAR Eagle County, Colorado:** 10 students from Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming trained on an indoor climbing wall and in 9,600 ft. elevation Fulford Cave. Rented a large house in Gypsum, CO for lodging, meals, and classroom.
- **Upcoming** – Two OCRs are tentatively planned for 2018. One in central Utah in summer, one in western Colorado in fall. Agencies that responded to Little Brush Creek rescue are being recruited for these trainings. South Dakota is interested in having either an OCR or SPAR in the fall.

Support for Other Regions

- **January 2017** – four RMR instructors assisted with South-Central Regional Seminar in Bend, Texas. RMR instructors were requested by SCR to lead SPAR and Level 2 courses.
- **February 2017** – one RMR instructor led an OCR in Cushman, AR for South-Central Region.
- **April 2017** – four RMR instructors assisted with Southwestern Region SPAR in Flagstaff, Arizona
- **September 2017** – four RMR instructors assisted with Eastern Region SPAR in Blacksburg, Virginia
- **October 2017** – two RMR instructors assisted with Pacific Northwest Region SPAR in Bend, Oregon
- **January 2018** – four RMR instructors assisted with South-Central Regional Seminar in Bend, Texas. RMR instructors were requested by SCR to lead SPAR and Level 2 courses.

Other NCRC business

- Andy and Bonny Armstrong along with Caribbean Region instructor Carlos Lao will represent the NCRC in Hungary April 6-13, 2018 at the Technical 2 training as part of our ongoing instructor exchange program with the HCIC.
- Andy is working with lead instructor Mel Eady-Pumplin to build the schedule and format for the new SPAR-X course at the 2018 National Seminar.

Appendix M:

National Cave Rescue Commission South-Central Regional Report Winter Meeting 2018

DJ Walker

Recent Events/Activities

- December 9-10, 2016 we held an OCR West Texas. 19 students participated, seven instructor/specialist, and one staff member (the cook!). One of the more stellar aspects was the 10 Mexican cavers who traveled from Monterey, Mexico to attend. They were all very excited and expressed interest in us coming to Monterey to deliver a longer version. This was held at a cave preserve owned by the Texas Cave Management Association.
- We hosted a very successful Regional Seminar January 20-27, 2018. The seminar sold out 6 weeks prior to the start date: with 30 Level 1 students, 20 Level 2 students, and 12 SPAR students. With Instructors, Specialists, and staff we had 109 people attend.

- This year we struggled with illnesses ravaging the seminar. Primarily the Flu impacted multiple students and staff. An incident report was submitted detailing how we handled the medical aspects, but our actions included: constant cleaning/disinfecting, hand washing/sanitizing stations, regular temperature checks for students who expressed they did not feel well, quarantining students, and ultimately sending 4 students home. After the conclusion of the seminar multiple students and staff became sick from illness likely contracted at the seminar. Dr Ekey was extremely helpful in the handling of the situation. After analyzing the information we believe we were able to identify the specific student who brought the Flu to the seminar and a spread of the virus ensued.
- For the third 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.
- Several Central Texas cavers have been working with emergency response agencies to coordinate cave rescue exercises. Several have occurred in both Austin and San Antonio and have been well received. I would like to extend my appreciation to them for their efforts.
- Ongoing coordination with the new NSS Treasurer to update the South-Central bank account and update signature cards with the appropriate NSS officers. The Regional Coordinator provided all needed information to the bank and signed a new signature card. This signature card was sent back to the bank so that it could be forwarded to the NSS officers for their signatures.
- The Regional Coordinator coordinated the Winter 2018 NCRC election announcements and collected candidate information for those expressing intent to run for open positions.

Appendix N:

2018 Classes

- SRT River City Grotto, FL
- SPAR – TAG area cavers

Rescues

- No cave team rescues

Appendix O:

NCRC Southwestern Region

Report for 2108

All has been quiet in the Southwestern Region

No trainings or rescues have occurred. Primarily due to lack of caves due to BLM closures in New Mexico.

The NCRC SW Region and a member of the Sandia Grotto, Southwestern Region of the NSS has developed and submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Land Management, Roswell District, for conducting cave SAR training for members of the Lincoln County Emergency Management and Fire Department in the continuing support of a Cave Rescue plan for Fort Stanton Cave. The overall objective of the proposal is to ensure local emergency responders are trained in the event of an incident during expeditions trips into Fort Stanton Cave.

We believe the proposal will be accepted since the initial training does not require entrance into the cave itself. As a reminder, BLM has several restricted access to many of the BLM managed caves in New Mexico.

Appendix P:

WR Report 2017

February 24, 2018

No Rescues

Training: OCR in Sequoia National Park in April 2017

Worked on book chapters. Working on a chapter on cave rescue with people from the ICAR MedCom. Worked on scholarships and Hudson award. Several WR instructors went to Redmond to teach. Took the WR gear cache for the National seminar.

Plans: Mock rescue at Millerton Cave with Fresno County SAR.

Problems: None.