

NCRC Winter Meeting 2019 Minutes

Chattanooga. TN, USA, Earth.

Date Saturday February 23, 2019, 9am local (EST)

0907 start

Call to order

Roll Call and Acknowledgment of Proxies.

DJ Walker proxy for Medical

Roger Mortimer proxy for SouthWest except for NTC vote, then proxy falls to Anmar Mirza

Carl Amundson for Eastern Region

Reports:

Finance Report Appendix A

IT report Appendix B

Officer Reports

National Coordinator Appendix C

Training Coordinator Appendix D

Medical Coordinator Appendix E

Diving Coordinator 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

2019 Seminar Update- Bedford Indiana

Seminar is on track, not much to update. Camp ready to go. Camp is looking forward to having us. Registrar reports L3 is full. With only levels 1, 2, 3, and IQ, the smaller seminar may result in lower income. 44 students 37 instructors registered at this time.

Seminar offering bunk house and tent camping. Bunk house and camping equally registered.

2020 Seminar Update- New York

On track. Right now budget is \$775 per person, but budget may drop some.

2021 Seminar Update- Virginia

No update for 2021.

2022 Seminar: TBD by motion below. Mentone accepted.

2023 Seminar: TBD by motion below. Oregon accepted.

South East Region moves for a return to Mentone in 2022

Diving seconds

8 For

4 Against

2 Abstentions

Motion carries.

2023 Seminar

Pacific NW moves that 2023 national seminar be held in central Oregon

Training seconds

12 For

0 Against

2 Abstentions

Motion carries

DJ Walker to send out e-mail at this meeting

Endowed Scholarship Report:

This year only had three applicants. A donor has made a major contribution to the NSS Cave Rescue Scholarship Fund, which will bring the total available up to approximately \$136,000, the interest from which can be used to award more scholarships. The NCRC will administer the awards per the new policy (Appendix Q).

Training Manual Report: The was updated per its 3-year cycle in 2018. Anmar working to collect data for next update. To anyone making changes or has input get it to Anmar before Winter 2020/21. Large process to get changes made. Will be exploring better ways of distribution.

Steve Hudson award

Mortimer asked for closed session.

Awardee voted on and approved.

Acknowledgement of online or phone 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.

Mark Dickey's Proposal via email notification _ Hungarian exchange

Western moves to accept the policy as re-submitted on Oct 1, 2018.

PNW seconds

Training officer a friendly Amendment that this policy will be reevaluated following 2020 national Seminar

Western and PNW accepts the amendment

Motion Carried

Roger moves that Casey England be accepted as a NCRC instructor

Motion Carried

Western moves that Ekey, Bull, and Ward be appointed as probationary NCRC instructors. Each must teach at Level 1 or Level 2 at the national seminar under the supervision of an experienced instructor appointed by the training coordinator. After they teach at a national seminar the instructorship will be reevaluated by the BORG with input of the mentoring instructor and the lead instructor.

Eastern accepts as amended

Motion Carried

Western moves (Motion via email) The NCRC will grant 5 scholarships of \$350 apiece for the 2019 national seminar. Applications are to be due by February 10, 2019. Applicants will be notified by March 11, 2019

Motion Carried

NCRC 2019

Certification

Motion 1 South Central moves that NCRC launches the certification program for levels 1, 2, and 3 at the 2019 national seminar in Indiana

Motion Carried

Motion 2: PNW moves that a permanent committee, the Certification Committee, be formed formally at the 2019 BORG meeting February 2019. The current certification Ad Hoc committee should assume the proposed duties for the permanent committee between now and the February 2019 BORG meeting to in the interest of furthering the implementation of the certification program in 2019.

Motion Carried

Motion 3: PNW Moves that the testing and evaluation function currently managed by the EC be transferred to the Certification Committee. A new Certification Committee operating policy document will be produced.

Motion Withdrawn

Training moves: L1, L2, L3 shall be offered at the 2019 National Seminar. SPAR-X shall be offered subject to availability of instructors, and with a Level 2 prerequisite. TOFE may also be offered if sufficient additional instructors commit.

Eastern Second

Accepted: all
Against:
Abstain:

Elections:

-Coordinators
Caribbean Region: Roberto “Bull” Miranda reelected
South Central: DJ Walker reelected
Rocky Mountain: Andy Armstrong reelected
South Eastern: Tim White reelected
Training Coordinator: Roger Mortimer elected

Lunch break 1324
Meeting resumed 1346

Diving Coordinator: Forrest Wilson resigning, recommending Michael Raymond to fill out remainder of term. Forest asked several candidates and Michael was the only one to show interest.

By consensus Michael to fulfill remainder of term acting as proxy as the term only has one more year.

-Education Committee Position at large:
Three Winter 2019 Positions
Gretchen Baker, Mark Dickey, Rick Speaect elected.

2020 Election candidate Search Chair: Andy Armstrong

2019 Budget

Finance Officer presented the FY 2019 budget (Appendix A)

Western moves to accept budget
Central seconds
13 For
0 No
1 Abstention

Education Committee Action Items- Punches

3 items of curriculum sent to BORC for review.
TC explained process and changes to each section of curriculum presented to BORC for review
South Central moves to accept all curriculum as presented.
Western second

7 For
1 Against
2 abstain
Motion carries

Old Business

Certifications committee items: Cartaya
Feedback was provided and Eddy will work to incorporate suggestions.

Safety policy: Cartaya/Armstrong/White
Tim notes working on general safety policy. Will have report by July 1 2019

NFPA committee: Mel Eady-Pumplin
No update at this time.

Logo: Mel Eady-Pumplin
No update at this time. Rick has worked on a few options and will present before next conference call.

ICAR: Cartaya
Eddy and Roger represented NCRC at ICAR and presented ICAR conference overviews.
Eddy introduced proposes NCRC ICAR delegate program.

New Publication: Cartaya
Eastern moves that BORC will accept or decline to endorse the “new book” within 30 days of receiving draft of the proposed publication.
PNW second

7 For
1 Against
6 Abstain

2018 IQ class: DJ asks for closed session.

Personnel issues were discussed.

Session reopened.

DJ Walker will chair a committee to explore instructor development pathways. Andy Armstrong, Greg Moore, and Mel-Eady-Pumplin will also populate the committee.

New Business

New scholarship policy/information:

Rocky Mountain moves to accept new scholarship policy as submitted (Appendix U)

South East seconds

12 For

0 No

2 abstain

Western moves that, should a Coordinator assume a second BORC position, said person shall have only one vote during BORC decisions.

North East seconds

12 for

0 no

1 abstain

NE second

Long Format SPAR (SPAR-X): PUNCHES/CARTAYA/ARMSTRONG

PUNCHES: can a regional spar-x count as reset of a must take class every four years to move to next level. Roger will establish a committee to create proposal for BORC to review

Instructor numbers- more IQ students per year? Specialists at National Seminars?

Training moves that the training coordinator be authorized to recruit specialists to supplement current NCRC instructors at the national seminars on an as needed basis. The TC shall be responsible for ensuring specialists uphold NCRC curriculum, procedures and policy.

Eastern seconds

11 For

1 opposed

1 abstain

Motion carries

Rotating winter meeting site: Moore, Cartaya

Greg proposes that the site host for NCRC national seminar host the winter BORC meeting.

Discussion by several about liking idea of moving it around, but not sure the seminar site or nearby will always be the right venue. No consensus reached.

Phone Meetings Formalization: Mirza/Armstrong will work on formalizing phone meetings and explore ways of allowing outside viewer engagement.

Next phone meeting April 29, Monday 2000 EDT

Announcements

ITRS Sponsorship
 NCRC is an ITRS sponsor and we encourage anyone available to go to ITRS.
 Central motions to adjourn at 1841.

Appendix A

NCRC BUDGET FY 2019-2020

	National	Regional	Total
Income			
Merchandise Sales	6000	400	6400
Donations & Sponsorships	200	100	300
Interest Rec'd	0	5	5
Seminar Income	55000	40000	95000
Seminar Fees paid to National	13000	0	13000
Total Income	74200	40505	114705
Expenses			
Bank & Finance Charges	3500	3500	7000
Office Supplies	500	100	600
Postage and Shipping	50	50	100
Printing & Copies	500	300	800
Merchandise Expense	1500	300	1800
Certificates & Database			0
Curriculum Development	400	0	400
Gear Trailer		50	50
Insurance (all)	3000	0	3000
Scholarships Granted	0	200	200
Training Equipment	10000	4000	14000
Education/Training Expenses	250	250	500
Seminar Expenses			0
Food & Facilities	40000	15000	55000
Instructional Materials		100	100
Supplies	500	200	700
Transportation	1000	500	1500
Misc Seminar Expenses	1000	1600	2600
Seminar Fees paid to National	6500	5500	12000
Publishing Cave Manuals	2270	1500	3770
Total Expenses	70970	33150	104120
Net Income/(loss)	3230	7355	10585

Appendix B

Database Coordinator Report for 2019

Database Coordinator: Greg D. Moore

Submitted: 2019-02-16

Amended: 2019-04-28

Data breakdown

Several notes;

- 1) Class sheets that do not include unique identifying information, especially for instructors will no longer be accepted. This has become a problem as more instructors are requesting transcripts to show teaching experience. What happens when there is no unique identifiers (email works well, but address helps too) is a NEW student record gets created and then the person may end up with 2 or more records. Use Class 396 as an example.
- 2) Student ID trumps all (this may become more important as we move forward with certification.)

The database shows 10 classes were taught last year:

- 1 Regionals
- 2 National
- 3 SPR
- 7 OCRs

Individual Breakdown

- Did not obtain, need to find the query.

Student Breakdown

- Level 1 students - 71
- Level 2 students - 35
- Level 3 Students -17
- IQ students 5
- TOFE Students -15
- OCR students - 117
- SPR students - 47
- Specialists - 47

- Staff -10
- DNC – Did not complete – 10 (larger than normal due to SC Regional that had several sick, etc.)

Database contains

- 7379 individuals. Some go as far back as the first National taught
- 383 total courses taught (we have data for 334)
 - 40 Nationals
 - 91 Regionals
 - 215 OCRs
 - 19 SPR
 - 11 “Other”

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 I’ve received within the last 2 weeks.

Future plans

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

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.

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 BORC members should have a login, see me if you don’t.

If you have course data that has not been submitted, please talk to me.

Appendix C

NC Report

Thai Rescue – 144 media contacts. Created a media contact on the web site

Worked with State Dept. and US Military. Aussie government negotiated immunity

Answered 26 other media requests.

Assisted with the Arkansas Rescue

Assisted with a dive recovery in Dominican Republic

Paid the bills

Worked with the EC on monthly conference calls

Answered BOG Requests

Answered BORC questions

Filed BOG paperwork

Appendix D

Plans:

- Rotate out of NTC role, but be available upon request to assist incoming NTC with transition
- Get all relevant NTC documentation organized within Dropbox for easy access to incoming NTC. Current info is already there, but I have literally decades of accumulated information that I'll review for relevance and post over the next couple of months.
- Brief new NTC on in-progress items
 - Instructor renewal issues (reminders, retests)
 - Seminar preparations (immediate need is to convene 2019 national seminar level leads to select their instructor pools)

Progress:

- L1 Packaging to BORC
- L2 Packaging to BORC
- L2 Rigging to BORC
- L1 Hypothermia shared with BORC, in revision
- Created a matrix showing skills progression across L1-L3, to encourage greater integration and advancement
- Adjusted weeklong calendar to accommodate certification skills testing
- Updated L1, L2, and L3 students tests
- Responded to numerous requests for regional course authorizations – great work everyone!

Problems:

- Progress on curriculum has never been as prompt as I would have liked. The EC members cannot consistently contribute the time needed to keep projects moving forward, and we collectively miss our internal deadlines all too often.
- Over the past several years I've spent far too much time dealing with issues of perceived conspiracy among various factions within NCRC. The NTC position seems to be a lightning rod for persons wanting to vent, accuse, "recommend", etc. I strongly encourage the BORC to more strongly convey the message that, while we have our differences, there should be no clicks and factions within the NCRC – we collectively need to walk that talk and avoid jumping on the factional bandwagons that we encounter. I issue a parting challenge to us all: don't assume negative info about a fellow NCRC instructor/officer is true – if you have concerns voice them to that person (and that person alone), individually. We owe each other nothing less.

Appendix E

This year saw a smooth transition of the Medical Officer position after several years of dedicated service by Dr. Stephen Mosberg. Current recommendations for medical kits and equipment were well established. The medical curriculum was mature and testing proven. There were no critical issues to address. At the direction of the Education Committee the medical curriculum was reviewed and a comprehensive medical matrix was developed (attached). This represents my vision of one way (but certainly not the only way) forward for the general medical organization within the NCRC. As an example, the current Level 1 Hypothermia lecture was redone from the ground up as a trial of the new style. With BORC permission, it was beta tested at the recent Texas Regional seminar with positive feedback. I hope to submit a final product to the BORC for approval once suggestions are assimilated into the lecture. In the next year I hope to continue to develop the medical matrix with support of any of the several "medically inclined" members of the NCRC family. Specifically I hope to establish an ad hoc medical group that would be interested in volunteering some time and opinion to edit the medical matrix. I hope this will lead to an overall consensus on the medical direction within the NCRC. Once consensus is established and the medical matrix approved, I will continue to update the medical curriculum to match the ideas presented in the matrix. Thank you.

Appendix F

Verbal Report submitted.

Appendix G

Caribbean Region Report.

1. No accidents to report.
2. No activities performed on 2018.
3. A meeting with the Civil Defense Secretary was held.
4. At this moment we are waiting for response of the Sport and Recreation department for a meeting with its director.

5. The calendar of activities for the 2019/2020 year is as follow:
 - a. 2 BCRO's, in prepaation for week long seminar that its in planning process. Information regarding dates and people in charge will be send out shortly.
 - b. Week long at the end of 2019 or the beginning of 2020.
 - i. We are trying to do a weeklong seminar, but we haven't found a place to perform it yet. The dates proposed for 2019, are already taken on the Ciales campground.
 - ii. Aguadilla, CECADER was destroy, most of it was destroy by Hurricane Maria, and at this moment there is no intention to fix it.
 - iii. Puertorican government has campground area, with rooms in Utuado. A meeting was ask with the secretary of the Natural Resources Department to see if its feasible, to perform it there.

Appendix H

Date of Report: February 20, 2019

Trainings

April 2018: Orientation to Cave Rescue

- Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve
- Sponsored by various Ohio Grottos
- Unlimited number of attendees

May 2018: Orientation to Cave Rescue

- Mammoth Cave National Park
- Sponsored by MaCa
- Training for Park Attendees at the conclusion of their Bat Week

August 2018: In Cave Evacuation Exercises Vertical (ICEE-V)

- Park Mammoth Resort, Kentucky
- Central Region's new all 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.

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

- Richard Blenz Nature Preserve, Indiana
- Central Region's new all in cave course. Similar to the Vertical ICEE course, however no SRT is permitted. 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 vertical cave environment.

Rescues

Sullivan Cave Lawrence County, IN November 2018

A gentleman slipped at the climb-down from the Popcorn Crawl and was having difficulty breathing. After arriving on scene, rescuers spent approximately 1.5 hours attempting to locate a key (the cave gate is typically locked) to enter the

cave. Four NCRC trained personnel entered the cave (an additional NCRC trained person remained on the surface) and located the injured party and his caving partner near the entrance series of the Back Breaker—it had taken them three hours to traverse this portion of the cave. The patient continued out of the cave with assistance and requested an ambulance upon arriving in the parking lot. The organization that manages the cave has since put into works a means of ensuring rescue personnel have access to keys in a timely manner.

Work in Progress

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

Plans

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
Continued work to sponsor the weeklong seminar at Camp Rivervale May 10-18, 2019.

June 2019: Orientation to Cave Rescue
Hart County, Kentucky

August/September 2019: ICEE-V
Park Mammoth Resort, Kentucky

November 2019: Orientation to Cave Rescue
Indiana Karst Conservancy, TBD Indiana

December/January/February 2020: ICEE-H
Richard Blenz Nature Preserve, Indiana

Problems

Lack of instructors within the Region. Lost three National Instructors.

Other

Upcoming students are stepping forward and assisting/teaching/mentoring at various regional seminars!

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 2, 2018 at the OTR site. At said meeting we appointed new positions; 2 Education Committee members, and an Education Committee Chairperson.

- Web Page updated
 - Updated PA Sub Regional Coordinators
 - Added one deputy to the NC Sub Regional Coordinator
 - Held an OCR in April 13 -15, 2018 with 22 students in Chimney Rock, NC
 - Held an OCR in June 22-24, 2018 with 30 students in Franklin Co, PA
 - Working with BCCS to conduct an OCR in June 2019 in Bath Co. VA
 - Purchasing 1-Ferno, 3-SKEDs and 4- OSSs
- Rescue Report:
 1. An of overdue person was reported near State Park College (person was going underground to meditate), had been underground 18 hrs, to which we responded and brought him out.

Tony has accepted a position at Hershey Coorporate. Start date is April 1st. He will continue to fulfil his responsibilities as the ERNCRC Coodintator with the help of his deputies.

Appendix J

2019 Northeastern Region Report

Submitted: Greg D. Moore

February 16, 2019

Training: No training. Planning an OCR in May or June and perhaps a SPAR later in the year.

Incidents: None

Check Book: Goal to work with Gaylene this year to finally change banks.

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 coming later.

Appendix K

PNW Regional Report for 2018

Rescues: 2 small scale injuries in Lava River cave, about 3500 feet back, and one medical about 400 feet in at base of stairs. All handled locally. One litter used for carry out for a lady who just refused to walk due to psychological stress / fatigue. Per Jansen Cardy, my sub-rep in Alaska, there have been no rescues or training activity in Alaska. See Problems below.

Training / Events:

- Held a 4 day SPAR in Canmore Canada. 15 students.

- Weeklong SPAR 5 ½ days at NCRC PNW facility in Oregon. Had 18 enrolled, but the two Thai cavers had to bail due to typhoon. Had 2 fire / cave rescue from Costa Rica. 9 instructors from 5 different NCRC regions.
- Attended ICAR in Chamonix, France with Roger Mortimer. Attended day long training on Mt Blanc. Initiated collaborative talks for exchange programs and formation of international cave rescue body with Polish, Croatian, German, Swiss, and Italian teams. NCRC voted in as a B2 member of ICAR.
- Took 11 interviews for Thai rescue.
- Attended and presented fumarole cave rescue counterweight techniques at ITRS in Portland.
- Held a glacier cave rescue workshop on Mt Hood, Sandy Glacier cave for Portland Mountain Rescue. Got over 16 members up and down moulin pit entrance and conducted rescue pre-plan in cave.

Plans:

- Offering a 3 day SPAR as part of the June 2019 MRA Annual conference at Mt Hood. Course will be shortened slightly and focus more on rigging adaptable to mountain rescue teams.
- Offering an extended length SPAR (nearly 6 days) at Redmond, based at PNW alpine caving tower facility. Will have heavy international attendance from Thailand, Costa Rica, and Europe.
- Hosting Western Regional NSS conference in Redmond, which includes an all day vertical workshop and SRT skills / water problems at PNW alpine caving tower facility.
- Resupply rescue cache in the Cave Ridge Caves in Washington. Planning to use helicopter to move cache supplies up.
- Launch certification program at Indiana this summer as certification committee coordinator.
- Teaching SRT and some cave counterweight techniques added to curriculum at NPS BTRT this April at New River Gorge.
- Planning to assist with the TAG weeklong / SPAR and / or NE region.
- Attending the 2019 ICAR in Poland, which will have a cave rescue focus, and pre-meeting to work on international cave rescue body.
- Attending European Cave Rescue Association (ECRA) conference in Istanbul, Turkey November 2019. Also to further International Cave Rescue body talks.

Progress:

- Had a steep angle platform and a climbing wall donated to the PNW alpine cave tower in time for the 2018 weeklong SPAR. Many thanks to Randy Columbello for his work and donated time and effort.
- New water problems pipe course added to PNW cave tower.
- Additional SCBA unit donated to PNW cache for fumarole cave / bad air cave entry, which we have had in USFS due to large party fires 1800 feet back in lava tube caves. PNW cache now has 3 SCBA and 8 micro rebreathers for bad air cave responses.
- Adding large water reservoir to alpine cave tower to better simulate water problems.

- NSS bat logo sign made by Kevin Lorms. Donated by Lorms and Rick Speaect. Mounted to alpine caving tower in Redmond.
- Working with Andrew Hower, NPS / DOI national SAR coordinator to get NCRC certification / PTB's recognized and integrated into IQCS / ROSS.
- Closer integration between NCRC and MRA teams to further collaborative glacier cave pre-planning. MRA conference will feature new collaborative video on this.

Problems:

- Get very little input and feedback from Alaska. Calls for reports and classes go answered. The only grotto that was active, the Glacier Grotto, is mostly dead now. Working with USFS there to try and rekindle interest in training. Jansen Cardy, who lives up there, says it is mostly crickets in terms of cave rescue interest. Most of the demand came from USFS doing cave projects many years ago. There seems to be comparatively little activity now. Still working with Johanna Kovarik.
- Need more instructors.
- Need more funding for international exchanges for regional courses. Would ideally like to have \$500.00 a year to assist international SPAR students.

Appendix L

**National Cave Rescue Commission
Rocky Mountain Regional Report
Winter Meeting 2019
Andy Armstrong**

Organization

- Region organized into State Coordinator System :

New for 2018 – Hannah Keith, Idaho caver and L1 graduate accepted role as **Idaho** State Coordinator in May 2018.

Colorado - Marty Reames, Colorado Cave Rescue Network Chair

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

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

Specialist

Utah - Rodney Mulder, Salt Lake Grotto Chairman

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

Mgt.

Recent Rescues / Events

- **August 31, 2018 – Main Drain Cave, Utah:** Sump dive expedition support caver fell while attempting a body rappel at a 7-foot drop, 1,000 feet underground. Her foot slipped causing her to pendulum into the wall, cracking a rib and partially collapsing a lung. There was only one other team member with the patient at time of accident. There is no mention of a head-to-toe patient assessment and the severity of the injuries

were not known until examination in a hospital. The two cavers decided to exit the cave, and while extremely painful and, the injured caver was able to self-rescue.

Regional Training

- **June 9-10, 2018 – OCR Oak City, Utah:** Bonny Armstrong led an OCR for 27 students from several western states
- **September 15-16, 2018 – OCR Rifle, Colorado:** Jon Schow led an OCR for 30 students including local SAR
- **Upcoming – March 8-10 2019 - SPAR St. George, Utah:** Andy Armstrong will lead a SPAR of 12 students. Training requested by Tears of the Turtle Cave, Montana expedition team. Tears is the deepest cave in the continental United States with 50 pitches and is 21 miles from the road at high elevation. The expedition team has 7 students attending.

Support for Other Regions

- **May 2018** – two RMR instructors assisted with SPAR in Alberta, Canada, sponsored by Pacific Northwest Region
- **September 2018** – two RMR instructors assisted with Pacific Northwest Region SPAR in Bend, Oregon
- **October 2018** – two RMR instructors led and assisted with Southwestern Regional Seminar at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico. 15 students attended from NPS and Carlsbad FD.
- **November 2018**– two RMR instructors assisted with Southeastern Region SPAR in Trion, Georgia
- **February 2019** – two RMR instructors assisted with South-Central Regional Seminar at Colorado Bend State Park, Texas

Other NCRC business

- Andy and Bonny Armstrong along with Caribbean Region instructor Carlos Lao represented the NCRC in Hungary April 6-13, 2018 at the Technical 2 training as part of our ongoing instructor exchange program with the HCIC.
- Assisted Mark Dickey in facilitating the visit of Andras Hegedus and Eszter Varga, instructors for HCIC to the 2018 National Seminar in Mentone, Alabama.
- With two instructors moving in from other regions, Rocky Mountain now has 12 active instructors. This represents great progress in teaching capacity from 2010 when there were only 2.

Appendix M

National Cave Rescue Commission South-Central Regional Report Winter Meeting 2019

DJ Walker

Recent Events/Activities

- We hosted a very successful Regional Seminar February 1-9, 2019. The seminar sold out in just a few weeks after being announced with 30 Level 1 students, 15 Level 2 students, and 12 SPAR students. With Instructors, Specialists, and staff we had 110 people attend.
 - For the fourth 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, 10 Instructors took the test.
 - We field tested 8 different ropes with the intent to transition to all Polyester ropes in the near future.
- There was a rescue in San Antonio TX where many of the fire department responders had taken NCRC training over the last five years.
- There was a rescue in Arkansas around the new year. Cavers from the area worked to perform the rescue. Several rescue teams from Tennessee, Alabama, and Texas were in the process of mobilizing to support the effort.
- Cavers in Central Texas have been coordinating rescue training/practices to keep skills current.

Plans

- Tentative dates for 2020 SC Regional have been set with facilities. Will seek approval soon.
- Scheduling in progress for an OCR in West Texas
- Arkansas is really wanting training after the Chilly Bowl rescue. Hope to support the training requests.

Appendix N

NCRC Southeast Region 2018 BORC Report

Tim White – Regional Coordinator

There were 4 reported accidents in the SE Region in 2018. Only one required agency call-out support.

The SE Region was a support and resource for the Arkansas cave rescue that occurred on Dec. 31, 2018. Chattanooga/Hamilton County (CHCRS) and the Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit (HCRU) were rallied and were moments of driving away when the “stand-down” message was received.

The SE Region is seeing a renewed interest in NCRC training. In May there was an OCR focused for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and a successful SPAR class in November 2018.

The Regional Coordinator conducted a TTRS training and introduction for the HCRU which was well received.

Starting early 2019 the SE Region along with CHCRS will be offering quarterly OCR classes through the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads (TARS) (<https://www.tnars.org/rescue-college-1> dates TBD with approval of the NTC). This is a huge opportunity that we have never had before to reach the entire state of TN and its many rescue squads.

In 2019 the SE Region will be requesting and plans to conduct at least 2 SPAR classes and a Regional in September. The Region is continuing to support CHCRS' MRA accreditation process, is working with CHCRS, HCRU and Walker County, along with TAG area cavers, to increase cross agency (and caver) networking.

I have been charged by the NSS Vertical Section to head a committee to update and rewrite the SRT training program in 2019. I will be working to ensure that the new Basic SRT Program meets the needs seen and outlined by NCRC. The Basic SRT Program will be using the same art style as NCRC and the new addition of *On Rope*.

Appendix O

NCRC Southwestern Region Report for 2109

No rescues have occurred. Primarily due to lack of caves due to BLM closures in New Mexico. From 2018 report: 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. 2019 Update: The proposal was accepted. A SAR survey was conducted of Fort Stanton Cave in May of 2018. A draft rescue plan is to be submitted to BLM by February, 2019. Included in the draft plan will be a proposed training plan for cavers and local first responders. A NCRC Level 1 regional was held at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in October, 2018. Andy Armstrong was the lead instructor and set up the entire course. Course was primarily designed for NPS personnel. There were 15 students in attendance. Sarah Truebe, Arizona, is working toward having an OCR in August of 2019. This OCR will be primarily for local first responders but should be open for Arizona cavers.

Appendix P

WR Report

No Accidents

No trainings

Trained at Oregon SPAR

Represented NCRC at ICAR
Taught (non-NCRC) cave rescue class for local SAR team
Did a rescue orientation for Sequoia NP rangers at Lilburn Cave
Created List of trained cavers for state Office of Emergency Services
Ran Scholarship and Hudson award committees
Six Thai rescue interviews

Plans:

OCR in Nevada
OCR at Lave Beds?
ICAR MedComm in April. ICAR in Poland in October
C-spine and helmet study

Problems: None

Appendix Q

Scholarship Committee

Operating Policies and Procedures

1. Objective

- a. The role of the Scholarship Committee (SC) is to announce, collect, review and approve applications for scholarships to attend NCRC national and regional training events.
- b. The Scholarship Committee (SC) shall work with the NCRC finance officer who will consult the NSS secretary treasurer to determine the amount of funds available for scholarships. They will plan to use the return on the investment of the fund and not plan to use any principal from the fund. Fund fluctuations may cause usage of principal. If the fund value decreases, the advertised or awarded scholarship shall be honored. Every effort made to avoid using the principal of the fund.
- c. Monies from the cave rescue fund, managed by the NSS and held by the NSF is for scholarship purposes. Purchases or reimbursement for any personal gear, equipment, instructor travel or expenses is not considered.
- d. The SC chair may be removed from their position by a majority vote of the BORC.

2. Organization

- a. The Scholarship Committee (SC) shall consist of a Scholarship Committee Chair that is appointed by the National Coordinator.
- b. The SC shall recruit and appoint scholarship committee members composed of instructors and regional coordinators from various regions, no more than one per region and changed on an annual basis to ensure all regions are represented.
- c. The SC shall strive to keep a committee of at least three members but not more than five members.
- d. Each member will review all applications and each member will get one vote on the scholarships to be awarded. If there is a tie then the National Coordinator or their designee will be the tie-breaking vote.

3. SC responsibilities

- a. The SC is responsible for verifying the amount of money available for scholarships each year.
- b. The SC will determine the amount of each scholarship. Not to exceed one half of the training registration fee.
- c. The SC will include scholarships to both national and regional training events.
- d. The SC shall submit their proposal for the following year to the BORC for their approval at the winter board meeting.
- e. If planned scholarships are not used, awarded as planned, or events are cancelled or modified, the SC can use any unused funds for scholarships for other events throughout the year as long as they do not exceed the total approved by the BORC and follow all of the scholarship guidelines.
- f. The SC will advertise and solicit scholarship applications
- g. The SC will consider factor such as:
 - i. Financial need of the applicant and give priority to those that cannot otherwise attend.
 - ii. Support letters in favor of applicant attending submitted by NCRC members, local teams or Grottos.
 - iii. Likelihood that the training of this student would benefit caving or cavers in general.
 - iv. Need for trained personnel in a certain area, region or discipline.
- h. The SC shall inform all of the applicants of the approval or disapproval of their award in a timely manner.
- i. The SC shall inform and coordinate with the registrar of the event to process the registration and scholarship award.

4. Meetings

- a. Meetings of the SC will be scheduled as needed by the SC Chair.
- b. Meetings may be online, in person or done with a phone conversation.