

## NCRC BORC Meeting

Location: Virtual Meeting

Date: **July 6, 2021**

### Meeting Minutes

#### Call to Order

5:30 PDT by Gretchen Baker.

Recording secretary: Bonny Armstrong

#### In Attendance

BORC: NC – Gretchen Baker, TC – Roger Mortimer, Dive - Zeb Lilly, SC – DJ Walker, RM – Andy Armstrong, WR – David Angel, Central – Jess Deli, Caribbean – Bull Miranda, SW – Sarah Truebe, NE – Greg Moore, PNW – John Punches, ER – Tony Smith. Proxies: SE – Brandon Bowers

NCRC Volunteer Position Holders: Marty Reames, Mel Eady-Pumplin, Rich Pumplin, Casey England, Mark Dickey, Bonny Armstrong.

19 total

Proposed changes to meeting agenda None.

Approval of 2021 June meeting minutes PNW moves, TC seconds, approved without changes.

#### Reports of Officers

1. National Coordinator – NC's report can be located in the [GOOGLE DRIVE](#). Topics include special presentation to 2021 IQ students, a new NCRC YouTube channel, proposed date and location of February BORC meeting, NCRC finances, and more.
2. Training Coordinator – Roger has been working with Casey on the new L3 Search Lesson Plan, and was busy answering emails associated with the L1 Regional in New York.
3. Financial – No financial report. Jess brought up previous difficulties purchasing materials for trainings. She said it was easy to work with Christy Starr (NSS) to make recent purchases with a debit card.

#### Reports of Committees

1. Education Committee – Roger, A test presentation of the L3 Search lesson was 1 hour, 40 minutes long so the Ed Comm is working on editing it for length. **Motion: Training moves to pilot new Level 3 Search talk at August 2021 national seminar. NE seconds. Motion approved.** John raised concerns that the L3 Search lesson builds off aboveground SAR and would benefit from more cave environment considerations. Roger replied it is building on L1 and L2 concepts but wanted to choose language that is familiar to those involved with aboveground search. Andy noted that this lesson, along with the Command-and-Control lesson, adds a number of objectives to the L3 class, and he recommends that the priority go to teaching current objectives and then additional ones as time is available. DJ thanked Casey for his efforts and agreed with John about making the powerpoint more cave-centric. Tony mentioned that the recent rescue in Virginia benefited from a person in command having taken then Command and Control module and he thanked DJ for that. The L3 Search PowerPoint can be viewed on the [Google Drive](#).

2. Branding Committee – Tim White added a document to the [Google Drive](#) with information about the NCRC logo; it is best viewed after downloading. Greg asked if the logo would be trademarked and recommended a link be shared where the logos will be stored. He also asked that a vector format be made available, and Mel said she had that. **Motion: PNW moves that the NCRC Logo Use and Branding Guidelines be approved as amended. TC seconds. Motion approved.**
3. 2021 Seminar update – There is one spot open in both L3 and TOFE, L2 has a waiting list.
4. 2022 Seminar update – Seminar dates are July 15-23, 2022 in Virginia.

#### Old Business

1. Alert Sense Demo – Sarah gave a demonstration of Alert Sense, an effective tool to page out resources for cave rescue. Resources can be tracked for level of training and specialties. Quarterly reminders are sent out to allow individuals to continue to be available or to opt out. Contact Sarah if you would like to set up Alert Sense in your region. Roger recommended an update in the *U.S. Manual of Cave Rescue Techniques* with a paragraph that covers this potential way to contact rescuers. John noted that he is on the AlertSense Callout list for several entities, and it is important to make the message clear where it is coming from. Gretchen said that in the Western Region, several NCRC students were delighted to get practice alerts, as it made them feel like their training was valued. The potential exists that this could be a tool to help encourage additional NCRC training.
2. Instructor Retention/Development Committee – The Instructor Development policy was approved during an online BORC vote that closed June 14, 2021. **Motion: SC moves that the word “Weeklong” be removed from “Instructor Development Policy” as it pertains to the “three seminar” requirement. PNW seconds. Motion approved.** The next meeting for this committee will be July 25, 2021. Contact DJ to join.
3. JHA/Risk Assessment discussion – An email w/synopsis was sent previously to BORC members, see the [Work Plan/Risk Assessment](#) folder in Google Drive. Risk assessment is part of a Work Plan with the subcategories of environmental survey, risk assessment, contingency plans, and documentation. A version was shared that would be more NCRC specific and recommended for seminars. There was some concern that this may be too cumbersome. NC proposes Brandon head a committee to refine a risk assessment document specific for NCRC. Greg, Mel, and DJ volunteer to assist.
4. Certification discussion – Casey provided an evaluation of the pilot Certification Process prior to the meeting and it can be found in the [Google Drive](#) as items 6a-6c. Many instructors currently find certification to be overly complex and time consuming, taking away from instructional time. Casey proposes a modified version to be used for the rest of 2021, with more changes in 2022 following evaluation of the national seminar. A lengthy discussion followed. Here are some of the main points: Roger stressed the importance of a credible process and that separation of instruction is important. Teaching and certification stations need to be separate, although a unitary document would be fine. DJ questioned what value is certification for students. He noted that the NSS hasn't increased liability insurance, although we are paying them. Certification means increased fees and increased time that takes away from instruction. What does certified mean? Roger commented that if the NCRC does certification, it keeps other certifiers away. Is there a possibility to make certification optional? John said certification is more liability. What if someone else offers certification, does that really impact the NCRC? Could we add an extra day for those who want to get certified. Andy liked Casey's middle-ground approach that check-offs equaled certification. Greg disagreed with turning check-offs into

certification because that causes the students too much stress. He would get rid of the patient packaging certification module. **Motion: SC moves to end the Certification pilot as it exists and revoke the certification fee currently required. SWR seconds. NC tables motion until next meeting.**

5. Image Replacement – L1 images have been replaced, L2 is nearly finished. NCRC Manual should be complete by the end of the year. Greg suggests that some of the images in the student pre-seminar packet need modification.

#### New Business

1. **Next meeting – Monday, August 16, 2021 8:30 pm (EDT)/5:30 pm (PDT).**
2. Organizational Response to Litigious Individual – Closed session.
3. SOGs – Sarah will proceed to organize and update with the SOG committee (Sarah, Ekey, Greg). Others welcome to join.
4. Other – **Motion: SC moves to give the Certification Coordinator the latitude to work with the TC adapting the current certification pilot testing to represent a process similar to the certification process 1.1 presented by the certification coordinator. Motion approved.**

#### Announcements

1. Upcoming trainings are listed in the Google Drive.
2. Andy Armstrong's presentation, *How to Make it Happen: Building a Seminar of the National Cave Rescue Commission*, is available for viewing [here](#).

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PDT (2 hours, 28 minutes total).