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Certified Report

Maine Region – 2019 - 2020

To: Maine PD's, Maine Officers and Members

From: John (JK) Kane, Certified#: 585

CC: Jon Wilson, Eastern Division Certified Chairman

Date: April 28, 2020

RE: 2019 – 2020 Report

The Certified Program had light year in getting around the state to bring the program to our members. Jim Wackell (former Certified Chair) did a great job over the recent years managing the program, but life got in the way happily with his now 1+ year Kathryn already on skis. She is already in line for her NSP # one day. Thank you Jim for all your support and keeping the standards of the Certified program high.

When I took the program back the first thing I did was to attend the PSPA exam at Sunday River. It was a cold sunny day that followed a warm rainy day creating firm skier surfaces. They got the First aid in and tried to combine the Skiing event in to. They got some of it done, but it was problematic for some of the modules (such as skills course) to be completed. In short the exam was called due to SAFETY concerns.

I spent two days with the PSPA Certified patrollers so I can ensure that the Certified program and the PSPA Program are sync with each other. Why? The Certified and PSPA organization have reciprocity in many of the modules.

A PSPA Certified Patroller that would want to become Certified with the NSP has to complete 4 modules (Avalanche, Outdoor Risk Management (ORM), Lift Evac, and Low Angle Rescue (LAR). Conversely, a Certified Patroller wanting to become a PSPA certified has to test out in 1 interview; an Operation's interview. This one interview encompasses many aspects of the mountain operations in general. Another credential that plays the gatekeeper for PSPA is that the patroller has to have been patrolling in a full time capacity for 1 year or 3 years as a part time paid patroller before you can be considered for an invite to this group. An example of a patroller who is performing such as feat is Rhoddy Ehrlenbach. He is a paid patroller at Sugarloaf having the position of Asst. Patrol Director and holding the position of Vice President of the PSPA Certified Program. Rhoddy has completed 4 or the 5 components in the NSP Certified program with only 2/3d's of the Avalanche module to complete.

The Certified Exam was scheduled to be held at Sugarloaf on 3/19 – 22. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we had to cancel the exam. We have scheduled the exam back to Sugarloaf on 3/18 – 21, 2021. I was confident that Rhoddy would have completed this module and we would have awarded Rhoddy his Certified NSP number. We will just have to wait. Good luck Rhoddy!

I attended the Sugarloaf Patroller School (one of six offered around the Division). The patroller school offers a wide range of modules for any patroller. Modules like Toboggan Instruction, Senior level training, Trainer Evaluator concepts and Certified. David Lemieux, an Eastern Division Staff member, was assigned to make sure that the event was assigned with various instructors with the appropriate credentials based on the needs of our participants. I and another Certified member were assigned to work with a certified candidate (to be) to work with him and show him the modules of the Certified program. We discussed and demonstrated the aspects of each of them. If this candidate leaned just one thing it was endurance! This candidate has the skiing and toboggan capability to be successful. However, if he can't make it last over the 10 components required he surely will not be successful. The take-away for him was that he will have to ski and toboggan NON-Stop runs to be in skiing shape for the exam.

Information on the Certified Program can be found on the Eastern Division website (www.nspeast.org). Highlight Programs, and then click Certified.

The Maine Certified Program is available to anyone in the Maine Region. Even if you do not think you are able to perform at the Certified level, we invite you to attend Certified events. Why? You will just get better! No matter what level you are at, our Certified & PSPA members will take you as far as you want to go

I am looking to reestablish the participation in the Certified Program by reaching out to all PD's and program leaders that may have recognized those patrollers who have the talent and skills to challenge themselves. I will look forward to meeting them.

As you know, I have held a Certified Boot Camp at HurriKane Cove in Harrison, Maine that breaks down each of the non-skiing components for anyone interested in pursuing the program. We have entertained of 100 participants over the last 3 years. The make-up of people are examiners, potential candidates and their family members. We have had guests from as far away as St. Louis, MO, Charleston, SC, Wheeling WV and all places in between. This event has attracted everyone with a whole host of abilities who want to learn more about themselves and learn from others. I am grateful for all the examiners who show up every year to share their experiences, knowledge and “secrets” to be successful at either or both the Certified and PSPA exams.

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I have cancelled the event for 2020. It has the event everyone plans their vacations around for over that last 11 years. While this is disappointing, we will be ready for next year. In the meantime I want to thank all of the Maine Certified and PSPA members for their time and contribution in making this one of the most desired events in the Eastern Division.

Please stay connected with the Maine Region’s website to check schedule of dates to be posted in the fall on the website: www.mainregionnsp.org.

The schedule next year is as follows:

Pre-Course & Intro to Certified

TBD – Check www.nspeat.org to stay connected for the most up-to-date information.

Certified Exam - 2021

Sugarloaf – March 18 - 21, 2021

If you are interested in finding out more about the Certified program, please call or write me anytime.

Thanks again for your time, effort and support of this great program.

JK