

REPORT ON OEC MSP PROGRAM FOR 2020

2020 was a mixed bag for the Outdoor Emergency Care Module of Senior Program (OEC MSP), but there are definitely some continuing challenges, as well as opportunities and needs for growth. There were two OEC MSP clinics held this past year, Mt. Abram and Sugarloaf. The Abram clinic was registered as a OEC MSP clinic, but really served as an OEC enhancement seminar for a number of patrollers; I have used this format in the past and it seems well received by the host mountains and seems less intimidating for prospective candidates.

The end test was scheduled to be held at Shawnee Peak on March 22 this year, and, as in recent years, I was able to schedule a TE certification course the previous day; also at Shawnee Peak. This scheduling seems to be appreciated and well received by those who participated. That was the schedule, then the Corona Virus crashed into Maine with the 1st case reported the prior week; the TE class was held as scheduled with emphasis placed on personal hygiene, but by the time Sunday rolled around, it was decided that holding an end test was not appropriate, and it was cancelled. We were at least able to recertify a number of TE's, and was able to bring a new one into the group.

The test was planned with one group of three, all from Sugarloaf; will work to on a make-up test date when appropriate.

As always, I had a great support team helping me with all the logistics; and I am grateful to the generous support from Shawnee Peak, the Down East Ski Club, the Maine Region and Eastern Division.

It is my hope going forward to try and build more interest in the program, with more candidates for both the program and as TE. I am happy to already have a couple of possible candidates for the program next year; I hope this interest and growth continues. A mix of both senior clinics and enhancement clinics is a model I would like to continue; I find it is a helpful introduction to senior for people who want to learn about the program, and also helps eliminate some of the fear factor. I am also hopefully that TE's at the mountains will also help out in building the program and working on training possible candidates.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Bull, Coordinator, Senior OEC Program, Maine Region NSP