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# Certified Report

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To: Maine PD's, Maine Officers, and Maine Members

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

CC: Bill Zink, Eastern Division Certified Chairman

Date: April 28, 2024

RE: 2023 - 2024 Report

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The Certified Program Continues an active role in Summer Boot Camps, Patroller Schools and at the requests of PD's that have interested members inquiring about the program.

After 15 years hold the boot camp at HurriKane Cove in Harrison, ME, we decided to move the Boot Camp around the Eastern Division to create members interest in other local geographies. This took place in Eastern PA on a Private Farm hosted by Justun and Amy Guth. Many of the same core modules are offered and always with a twist.

The main event included recreational climber repelling a 35' cliff wall in which the Repeller had a medical emergency which required the rescue. A rescuer had to repel down along side the person needing help. There he transferred from the recreational Repeller's gear to his own, then proceeded down the cliff wall to the base where he would be medically treated. There were also other personnel needing assistance with laceration and hypothermia as there was a river at the base of the cliff. Adding to that, rocks and boulders were coming from atop the cliff wall (simulated – of course). There, other rescuers called to the scene, took the patient down and performed the necessary OEC.

When the patient(s) were all stabilized (one required a spine board) they had to be evacuated back to the top of the Cliff wall where ALS was waiting to receive them. While most could walk up and out, the patient on the spine board needed the assistance of a LAR (Low Angle Rescue) system set up to haul the litter and the two rescuers up the steep pathway. It all went extremely well, combining some of the core requirements of the program we don't get to do in the resorts at exam time. Thinking on your feet, outside the box, with limited time allowed allows for managing resources with the candidate's knowledge and experience training to be decisive, expeditious with confidence of one's practical skills on display.

The Certified Program is not just for recruiting and developing those only wishing to be successful in passing the 6 core modules, but to experience the journey or learning from a diverse landscape of patrollers and resort operations, so they can bring their experiences back to their respective patrols. We encourage anyone to come and see and experience the program for a fact finding mission for others they may know who would benefit from this program.

Attendance is open to anyone interested in just learning about the Certified Program and for those looking to enter the program. Please see the following activities performed:

- We "Z" dragged ATV's up steep embankments for LAR – Low Angle Rescue / Rope Rescue.
- We performed Chair Lift Evacuations between Large Oak Trees.
- Avalanche – Deep leaves and underbrush provided for the beacon search and a discussion for general review and access for information on snow science.
- OEC – Certified Level – Scenarios – This one featured was as described above
- Skiing – only as we dreamed out way to sleep!
- Interviews – ORM – Outdoor Risk Management and Credentials review.

The program has been growing every year with participation from examiners, candidates, and families all over the Eastern Division. In past years we have had Board Members, Certified Program Supervisors from all over the country to experience this great opportunity of program design and learning.

We entertain anywhere from 80 people to 120 of the best people you would ever meet. This year's event will be in Sothern New York. Once I have all the information, I will forward it on. We will have the event back in Maine at some point in a rotation. Please make plans to attend these worthwhile and informative events. If you are interested in participating, please let me know at any of my contact information listed here.

Please go to the ME Region Website ([www.maineregionnsp.org](http://www.maineregionnsp.org)); click on the Eastern Division Website window to the right of the page; then click on Photo's. Please also check out the Certified Program for all other information while you are on the Eastern Division Website ([www.nspeast.org](http://www.nspeast.org)). You will get an idea of how much **FUN** we are having!

The Certified Group has approximately 3-4 Intro-to-Certified events at Patroller's School scheduled in the Eastern Division and one of them happens every year at Sugarloaf. A big THANKS to Sugarloaf for allowing us the opportunity to run programs there. The Patroller Schools are offered by the Eastern Division Staff and hosted by a local resort. There is a tremendous amount of interest from our members, but also the behind-the-scenes logistics, communication and coordination that make these events the success that they are usually goes on without the participant even aware. Special THANKS to David Lemieux for managing the preliminary chaos and Roddy Ehrlenbach and his Sugarloaf Team for making it happen. A Pre-Course is also available for those interested in entering the program.

The Annual Certified Exam is usually held mid to the later part of March. However, these dates can change due to snow availability and other factors. This year's exam was at Sugarbush in March from 3/14 – 3/18. They were a great host, and the exam went off without a hitch. Both Roddy and I had the responsibility this year of examining the OET event. Roddy, also examined at other stations too. We had one successful patroller passing all components to earn her number Certified#: 866

It is also important to note that there is another organization that the NSP Certified Program works with and has reciprocity with – and that is the Professional Ski Patrol Association (PSPA). To join the PSPA one must be employed as a professional ski patroller and must be able to demonstrate payment through payroll records or other means. These talented and dedicated individuals get to work at their respective resorts daily, learning all the mountain operations and then forwarding them onto others including volunteers from the NSP. It is here that both entities can learn, adapt, and employ the best practices for best in individual performance. They then become teachers and mentors for our members at home resorts and at large. We are fortunate that we have worked out a reciprocity agreement for which either patroller can become part of either program. I think it is important to celebrate our own Maine Ski Patrol talent that both associate with the NSP and the PSPA. Roddy Ehrlenbach (Cert# 852) is PSPA and is the President as well.

While we didn't have any Maine NSP Certified Candidates this year, we will continue to visit the Maine Region resorts throughout the 2024-25 season tagging some training along with other programs like S&T and OEC Clinics. I have been approached by many members with a lot of interest in the Certified program. We are starting to see increased participation by continually forwarding opportunities of "can do" environments while demystifying the Certified Program. Please continue to talk up the program and participate at any one of our scheduled Boot Camps and "Intro to Certified" programs; or call me to bring the program to you! Please see schedule of dates to be posted in the fall on the website: [www.maineregionnsp.org](http://www.maineregionnsp.org).

The schedule next year is as follows:

Pre-Course & Intro to Certified  
Sugarloaf – January (20-21???) TBD)

Certified Exam  
(TBD)

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

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

JK