

2/5/24

FNBP Board & General Meeting Notes

Board Attendees: Trevor Howard, Leif Nelson, Emily O'Neil, Jackson George, Nathan Basford, Conor O'Neil, Jenny Cloutier

The following is a summary of the Board and General Meeting Notes for January. ***To access all of the web addresses mentioned throughout the notes, hover above the address, hit CTRL and click.***

- Roster and Website – Once again, Amberleigh keeps making improvements to our FNBP website! It's still our address at [Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol](#).
 - There are links at the bottom of the website to check out. Next to the social media icons are 4 that are beneficial to our members. The first is a link to the most recent meeting notes. The second goes to all of our documents on our FNBP Google Drive. The next one to the right is a link to our event sign up form, mentioned in the next section. The final icon on the right is the form to fill out after a patrol in Glacier Park to record how the day went and what was observed.
 - She is working to clean up our Patrol Roster, it hasn't been done in many years. Here is a link to a sign form, please sign up: [New and updated 2024 FNBP Directory!! \(google.com\)](#)
 - She has created a way for members going on a tour to add it to our FNBP calendar so folks can join, we know where you went, and you'll have a ski buddy. Please follow [this guide to adding it to the calendar](#) so that it has all the relevant info. And here is a link to our calendar: [Google Calendar - January 2024](#)
 - If you would like to carpool to a tour, patrol or event, here is a great (free) link to help organize a carpool: [Create Your Carpool. Invite Your Friends. Stop Endless Emails. \(groupcarpool.com\)](#)
 - As a note, here is a link to the FNBP/GNP Patrol Report Form that is to be used after a winter patrol in Glacier Park to reflect your observations of the day. We'll get it add to the Google Drive and website: [FNBP/GNP Patrol Report - Google Forms](#)
- Event Sign up Form – Carmel Johnston created a Google Form for patrollers to sign up for all of the events that are currently slated for this winter season – and it has been updated for current events from February on. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE go to the Google Form and sign up for the trainings and events that you anticipate participating in. These include all the events mentioned in these notes. Thank you, this will help SO much in planning!! The Form can also be clicked on here: [Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol Winter Signups \(google.com\)](#) as well as on our website, at the bottom, next to Google Drive icon.
- Hot Dog Dayz – The first Hot Dog Dayz of the season took place on January 27th and while it was on the wet side, well over 125 hot dogs were given away. Four patrollers, Emily Struss and Clare Menzel – who were invaluable – and 2 volunteers assisted for the day. FOFAC's mobile beacon park was utilized. A wonderful thank you letter from a young ski school student was even sent to FOFAC. The next Hot Dog Dayz will be Saturday February 24th, coinciding with the avalanche center's Friend's Fest. **As many volunteers as possible are needed!!** For this weekend there will be **TWO** sites needing patrollers. One will again be at the top of Flower Point. Patrollers are asked to be ready to load Chair 1 by 8:20am. Please let Conor or Emily O'Neil know if you will be needing a lift ticket for the day. The second site will be at the Canyon Creek Trailhead. It will also

have a mobile beacon park and will be targeting the snowmobile community. Please use the sign-up Form to relay if you will be attending!

- Candidate Training – Conor, Trevor, Joe Arseneaux, and Kat Gebauer conducted this year's Candidate Training at Whitefish Mountain Resort. It was a great turnout and a fun event. Candidates met in the lower parking lots and practiced ski essentials in adverse terrain. They then moved to Flower Point and skinned towards Gouley Point, stopping along the way to make shelters and practice fire building.
- Mountain Travel & Rescue – The classroom sessions for this training concluded on Monday February 5th. Due to Dan's passing and his extensive involvement with the class, instructors will discuss the progression forward for the field session on March 1st-3rd.
- Winter Patrols – Jackson George is sending the invite for patrollers to ski with him over the next month and a half in the Park on a winter patrol. Interested members are asked to contact him with your availability.
- Second GNP Winter SAR Training – Glacier National Park will be conducting a second or make-up Winter SAR Training in the headquarters area of the Park on Tuesday 2/20 and Wednesday 2/21. It is a similar format to the training that was conducted in January. Members wanting to attend should contact Brian Drew and he can forward the two day itinerary.
- Beacon Checkers – Jackson George was able to set up checkers at the Essex site as well as on the Going to the Sun Road at the Lake McDonald road closure gate, near the Sperry Trailhead – a new location this year. FOFAC was able to purchase 4 new beacon checkers, which still need to be built from the ground up. A tentative date of March 10th has been proposed for their construction at Leif Nelson's house. Please contact Leif if you can assist.
- NSP National Avalanche Director – We are proud to announce that Greg Fortin has been selected as the NSP National Avalanche Director! Very excited for this opportunity for him! We'll look for updates from him on what is coming down the chain nationally.
- Board Elections – Once again, we will endeavor to conduct our elusive board elections. Think of those you would like to step into a leadership position, both on the board and as a candidate to phase into the Director position to relieve Trevor after his numerous years of amazing work (please thank him for everything the next time you see him!).
- Awards Committee – A committee needs to be created to recognize fellow patrollers that have contributed significant time and efforts to patrol events. The committee could also petition for recognition of FNBPA at both the Divisional and National level for our involvement in community events, functions, and cooperating agencies. Finally, with Dan's passing, it would be important to have him recognized at the Divisional and National level for his long career of service to search and rescue operations, extensive training, mentorship, education, and community outreach.
- Winter Inter Sponsorship – Jackson George was able to participate in a high level Avalanche SAR Pro class in Colorado a couple weeks ago. We look forward to his involvement and knowledge in SAR and avalanche classes in the future. Due to the large expense of the training, funding for his position in the Park may be cut short of his original season end date. He was requesting funding assistance to extend his season to the end of March. An exact dollar number was requested from Jackson in order for the board to make a decision on granting the funding and he will bring that to the next meeting.
- Responder Alliance & Nate Chute Foundation – Jenny Cloutier with the Nate Chute Foundation brought in the organization Responder Alliance to present to first responders in the valley about mental health and psychological stress. She is working on bringing them back for a county wide

training as well as assisting counselors in the valley with trainings to assist first responders specifically. More to come as information is known.

The next meeting will be Monday March 4th . Keep checking email for updates on memorial events for Dan'I.