



WMS Elective 2014

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Snow in the Smoky's

TK and the gang rolling with the punches...snow...

February 13, 2014

Today I get to send my blurb early. We had snow last night--a lot as in 6-7" at the camp. No staff made it up for breakfast, but they had made arrangements last night for us to fend for ourselves. So we did, and the group jumped in and even washed dishes! Of course they were able to brew some coffee--then even decided to double the amount of coffee.

Then I used Seth Hawkins' power point about immersion injuries to discuss that topic. It was not as well as Seth would have done it, but much better than I would have done winging it on my own. We also did a quick run through of this suspension syncope power point.

I referred the group to the on line resources for the epinephrine, drowning, and other materials Seth up loaded for us.

Then I bored the group with a few war stories. Just before mutiny I got the 6 epi pens the students had bought and we gathered around a cardboard box. I stripped the labels from an old style and a new style pen to show how the mechanism works. Then it was discussion of taking the carpules out of each style. One at a time six students accessed the carpule after discharging the pens so the epinephrine splashed off the far side of a box. In general we were able to get an additional 4-5 doses from each one. Both the safer Wilderness Medicine Outfitter and the more straight forward Roane State methods were used. It was a very popular activity.

After a few more war stories I released the group for the day. I expect them to return by 1800 or so. I'll be at the dining area at noon and 1700 for any who come. We'll raid the cooler and survive. Luanne Freer e mailed that she is flying this way.

Assuming she gets to Knoxville and the road is passable, she will join us at Nickle Lodge for an evening program and relaxing. She is featured tomorrow.

Needless to see Seth Hawkins did not make it over. I mourn the loss to the group, but take solace in his having more time with his wife and sons. If Luanne gets weathered out despite her best efforts I'll hope she is able to up load her power points.

And more winging to cover the topics. May the students be spared another session with my rambling!

Although I have not formally cancelled the rafting planned for Friday, I have called off the planned overnight tomorrow. Given the cold temperatures today and steep roads, I am not willing to ask the group to drive on the potentially treacherous roads.

Which means Saturday we will be six hours drive (in normal conditions) from the rafting center. Not a day trip. And the forecast is mid 40s Saturday. It would have been our first float above freezing. Guess the fates are reconfirming my decision to step down from formal participation in the elective. Nothing like mother nature taking you to the wood shed.

But the group continues to be very energetic and up beat. We will likely finish our presentations tonight or tomorrow. Next week starting this Saturday temperatures are predicted to moderate into the 60s. There will be some classic scenarios to spring on the unsuspecting students. And then the back pack.

Another mentor dropped out yesterday. Still have enough for one for each of the five groups. There is still food in the kitchen. Some took a litter to try sledding. Life is good. TK

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