

Minutes  
NCAC Shooting Sports Committee  
November 1, 2016

Attendance: Cole Howell, Ken Feng, Joe Flaig, Kurt Johnson, Freeman Jones, Andrew Petty, Jerry Sagers, Brian Suddeth and John Wolfgang

Meeting Started at 7:35 PM

The October 4, 2016 meeting minutes were accepted as distributed.

We now have shooting sports committee district representatives from each district except Aquia, Goose Creek, Old Dominion, Piedmont, Seneca, Washington DC, White Oak and Zekiah. The requirements for a district representative are that they hold at least one shooting sport instructors certificate or Range Safety Officer certificate, that they attend committee meetings and participate in council shooting activities. The shooting sports committee staff advisor is now working with the District Executives to complete these appointments.

Training courses (within 100 miles from the council) for the next two months are included in our Shooting Sports Committee Calendar located on the NCAC website.

To date, our attempts to schedule a Level 1/Level 2 Archery instructors course has been unsuccessful due to conflicts in instructor's schedule and available dates at Camp Snyder. We are setting up two course dates (one in the spring and the other in the fall) for 2017. Both these sessions will be a joint USA Archery Level 1 and Level 2 course. The minimum course for camp staff and merit badge counselors is USA Archery Level 1.

Joe Flaig reported on the successful pistol shoot activity for Venturers. The activity had 23 youth participating and ran without problem and under budget. The shooting sports committee thanks the Thurmont Conservation and Sportsman Club (TCSC) for the use of facilities. Many thanks to the NRA Pistol instructors from the shooting sports committee and the TCSC membership.

John Wolfgang reported that all shooting sports events at the Goshen 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary camporee will be managed by the council shooting sports committee. We expect to have archery, shotgun small bore rifle, small bore pistol and Cub Scout BB and archery ranges. Ranges at Marriott, Olmstead and Bowman will be used. We will provide pistol shooting for Venturers and Explorers only. Cub Scout family camp BB and archery shooting activities will be held in their camping area. Recruiting of shooting sports staff is underway. We are in the process of contacting current certified NRA instructors from Camp Stall, Merit Badge Counselors and Range Masters. All shooting sports logistics will be performed by members of the shooting sports committee.

The new Cub Scout Shooting Sports manual and requirements are now available. They may be downloaded from <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>. Copies were electronically distributed to all shooting sports committee members. **This manual restricts Cub Scout shooting as follows "Kindergarten-age boys in the Lion pilot program are not approved to participate in Cub Scout shooting sports activities"**. The committee discussed the need for additional district/council activities designed to support the new Cub Scout Shooting Award system.

A new **Scouting Pistol Safety & Marksmanship** manual (no 622175) has been published. The joint activity of the BSA and NRA is available from the National Supply Division at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org).

Summer camp activities at both Goshen and Snyder are finished. The Goshen shooting sports staff worked with John Wolfgang during camp closedown to develop an inventory of what is at Goshen (rifles, bows, ammunition etc.) We have now started the annual Fall equipment maintenance cycle at Goshen and Snyder. We will have everything winterized by the first week in December. During the holidays in December we will hold our traditional archery repair sessions at Camp Snyder.

This year our summer programs 8020 youth in shooting sports programs. (123 Avery, 2600 Day Camp, 5650 Goshen and 2650 at Snyder). We estimate and additional 4100 youth participated in shooting sports activities at district camporees for an overall total of 12120 youth participating in shooting sports activities with the council boundaries.

The new Snyder Emergency Action Plan is in use at Snyder. (It still needs final review and signature.) We will complete this activity prior to submitting our request to modify the operating Special Use Plan for Camp Snyder.

Work on the Special Use Permit update for the rifle and shotgun ranges at Snyder is still suspended pending approval of the NCAC Board of Directors and cognizant council committees. Risk management analysis for the new ranges and presentation materials for the proposed ranges has being developed. Jerry Saggars, Joe Flaig and Freeman Jones met with the chairmen of the council Program and Camping committees to resolve issues with Board approval.

We cannot proceed with the Special Use Permit modification submission until we have developed a Plat drawing for the new range locations. This requires a land survey. The approval to proceed with the engineering contract for range surveying, from the Chairman of the Camping Committee has been received. We are now waiting for a response to our updated Statement of Work from the engineering firm before having the professional staff sign the contract. The shooting sports committee team working on this activity is reviewing the final package for submission

There is some concern at both the national BSA and national NRA levels about instructors not using the NRA First Steps program in the merit badge program (Rifle Shooting and Shotgun). Merit Badge counselors should use the First Steps course and report results to the NRA. There was much discussion on the newly announced shooting sports activities for BSA participant. All activities require special permission from national, and additional equipment and supplies. There are specific problems with every one of the new shooting sports activities, such as single source equipment or supplies restrictions, reliability of specified equipment and additional range and instructor requirements.

John Wolfgang reported that only 4 out of 48 Archery Merit Badge Counselors (8.3 %) are qualified (to BSA standards) for range operations. Similarly, 9 out of 58 Rifle Merit Badge Counselors (15.5%) are qualified and 3 out of 32 Shotgun Merit Badge Counselors (9.3%) are qualified. The National Advancement Committee set standards for merit badge counselors. However; the shooting sports range operating standards as specified in the ***Guide to Safe Scouting***, and ***BSA Shooting Sports Manual*** still must be met for all range instruction activities.

The 2017 University of Scouting will include three shooting sports sessions (Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Venturing).

The Federal Youth Handgun Safety Act requires parental permission prior to the youth participating in shooting activities. Furthermore; this signed permission slip must be carried, at all times, by the youth while they are on the range. The NCAC shooting sports committee is developing a shooting sports

permission slip for this purpose. This only affects youth in the Venturing and Exploring programs. Learning for Life Explorers follow the same guidelines as Venturing for their shooting sports activities. One additional difference is that National Exploring operates a National Law Enforcement Pistol Competition ([www.learnignforlife.org/Exploring](http://www.learnignforlife.org/Exploring)).

Brian Suddeth and John Wolfgang are to review the materials for inclusion in the council website. Items we are considering for inclusion as part of the website and district roundtable presence are:

- NCAC "How to" Shooting Sports manual (under development)
- Event help request form for shooting sports (developed)
- Firearm and Archery Instructors List (in progress)
- NCAC Shooting Sports Merit Badge Counselor List (updated every month) Must be password protected (under development)
- University of Scouting Shooting Sports Presentations (developed)
- Where to Shoot information for council troops, teams and crews (under development)
- Shooting Sports Committee Minutes (developed)
- Pointers to various national BSA Shooting Sports Manuals (developed)
- NCAC Shooting Sports Standard Operating Procedures (under final review)
- NCAC shooting Sports Pistol Permission Slip (being developed)

Several of these items still need to be finalized in form compatible with the website,

Action item list was reviewed and updated.

Next Shooting Sports Committee meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2016 at the Marriott Scout Service Center from 7:30-9:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned 8:57 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wolfgang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Wolfgang".

John Wolfgang  
NCAC Shooting Sports Committee Chairman