

National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21 2017
Marriott Scout Service Center, Bethesda MD

1. Opening:

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Aquatics Committee Acting Leader, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees included Mike Meenehan, Michael Snowdon (new Aquatics Committee NCAC Staff Advisor), Steve Park, Myles Gallagher, Mark Wray, Tom Ballew, Zach Hulet, Lee Ackiss, Charles Hochstein, George Sellers, and Jenna Kwon.

Attendees approved the 18 June 2017 NCAC Aquatics Committee meeting minutes.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison reports

Sea Scouts – Tom Ballew and Myles Gallagher reported on their successful Sea Scout Lifeguard Camp that had 14 students. They are planning a Merit Badge Afloat weekend.

Advancement and Recognition – We discussed the announcement by the A&R committee on the recent changes to Boy Scout 2nd and 1st Class swimming requirements. The changes are not applicable to NCAC due to the wide availability of swimming locations in our area.

3. Aquatics Web Page

Norman Laythe has been doing a great job of keeping the NCAC Aquatics Committee web page updated. He has recently posted information about the new Whitewater BSA award, Aquatics Committee meeting minutes and updated NCAC Aquatics Guidelines (including information about the recent swimming requirement changes)

4. Recent Events – A full summer of aquatics activities and training was held.

- a. On 29 June we conducted a Snorkeling BSA session for Troop 496 at the Germantown Indoor Pool. This was a crew preparation activity for their upcoming Florida Sea Base trip.
- b. Many NCAC Scouters supported the 2017 BSA National Jamboree. NCAC sent 15 buses with over 500 participants.
- c. The annual Scout Scuba certification course kicked off on 30 July and was conducted the weekend of 12-13 August and 19-20 August. 10 youth and adults participated and completed their certification. All the youth participants earned the Scuba Diving merit badge. Carl Stout and Mike Meenehan staffed the event.
- d. On 6 August we conducted a Swimming and Water Rescue course at Blu Water Scuba in Manassas for 4 Scouters.
- e. On 1-4 September the annual ScubaJam was held at Lake Phoenix VA with numerous participants from NCAC, both staff and participants. The event had a record attendance level with 100+ staff and participants. Carl Stout conducted a Scuba Diving merit badge session.
- f. On 16 September Mike Meenehan conducted an American Red Cross CPR for Professional Rescuer and First Aid course for 6 Scouters. One of them was finishing up his BSA Lifeguard certification.

5. Upcoming Aquatics Activities

- g. We discussed the fall Paddle Craft Safety Course. Jenna Kwon, Mark Wray and Steve Park volunteered to lead the course at Camp Snyder on 7 October.

- h. The Camp Snyder trailer full of 6 canoes was blown off the lakeside dam during the August tornado. The trailer is at the base of the dam with a flat tire. The canoes need to be removed from the trailer and the wheel repaired.
- i. Pow Wow is scheduled for 28 October at Annandale High School. We need a Safe Swim Defense / Safety Afloat course trainer. Mike Meenehan will be manning the aquatics display in the midway.
- j. Charles Hochstein and Jenna Kwon discussed their plans for a Swimming Merit Badge clinic at Spring Hill REC on 4 or 18 November. The Recreation Center is requiring that we rent the necessary classroom and pool space for the clinic.

6. Camp Snyder Aquatics

Bob and Robert Brandel (2017 Camp Snyder Aquatics Director) submitted a report from the summer's camp season. Some highlights were: there was an over chlorination problem when the electricity went out during a storm. The pH and flow rater meters apparently were not working well. It appears the CAT2000 chemical feeder was not working properly. Other items were the lack of hot water for camper showers and that they borrowed a robot pool vacuum which helped due to the lack of aquatics staff. On the boating front – the tornado blew the canoe trailer off the dam. We need a recovery plan. There were not enough aquatics staff to operate both the pool and the lakefront simultaneously. Staff interviews for 2018 will take place in January 2018. Steve Park said he would look into getting additional canoes for Camp Snyder.

7. Camp Wall Aquatics

Impact of the recent hurricanes to Camp Wall was not yet known.

8. New Business

A Girl Scout troop asked for help finding canoeing instructors for 4th graders at a GSCNC camp for 8 October. The request was forwarded to Mark Wray, ACA instructor.

Several inquiries were received about bridging from ARC Lifeguard to BSA Lifeguard. Robert Brandel, Camp Snyder Aquatics Director, volunteered to conduct the bridge training during the summer session at Camp Snyder. Inquiries have been forwarded to him.

The new BSA Whitewater aquatics award was released in early July. Troop 711 was probably the first unit to earn the award during their 23 July whitewater trip on the Ohiopyle River. They provided an article for the NCAC Scouter Digest.

The aquatics section of the 2018 National Camp School is back to starting on Saturday (rather than Thursday evening). NCS attendance is required for all Camp Aquatics Directors. It is how you obtain the BSA Aquatics Instructor certification. The cost for the week long session is \$550. It is \$450 for the 4 day recertification session. The schedule is available at <https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/2018-National-Camping-School-Brochure.pdf>

We discussed the development of the 2018 NCAC Aquatics activities schedule. The schedule driver is Pow Wow on 28 October. We discussed basically having the same activities as last year. A BSA Lifeguard review course was offered last year but no one registered. New activities

to be added to the calendar will be a pool work day at Camp Snyder in early May and promotion of the Scout Challenge Canoe Race as part of the Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race in early June.

Thuy Nguyen is leading the 11th. International Jamboree of Vietnamese Scouting at Camp Snyder from June 28 to July 4, 2018. She is looking for support for aquatics activities. She was given the NCAC lifeguard database and the Aquatics Committee roster so you might be getting a call from her about helping out. Mike Meenehan will be organizing the Scuba activity for the Jamboree.

The Red Cross is now requiring that all Lifeguarding Instructors complete a review course as part of the recertification. The review courses are hard to find in our area. Zach Hulet, ARC Lifeguard Instructor Trainer, volunteered to organize one for NCAC Scouters in Nov/Dec.

The Florida Sea Base is looking for adult volunteers to help with hurricane cleanup from September thru December 2017. See their website for more info.

NCAC Aquatics Committee input for the Fall NCAC Digest was provided by Mike Meenehan.

9. Policy Decisions

The new Whitewater BSA aquatics award requires local Council approval of award counselors: “Any adult leader, approved by the council, who is trained in Safety Afloat and can personally verify that all instruction and skill completions were directly supervised by a professionally trained or licensed rafting guide may serve as a counselor for this award.” The Committee decided that blanket approval is given for any registered NCAC Scout Leader who has current Safety Afloat training is approved to serve as a counselor. Documentation of this determination will be added to the NCAC Aquatics Award Counselor Guidelines.

10. Next Aquatics Committee Meeting

The next quarterly Aquatics Committee meeting will be our annual Holiday meeting on Thursday, December 7 at the Fairfax American Legion Post.

11. Professional’s Minute

Michael Snowdon, new NCAC Aquatics Committee Staff Advisor and Camp Snyder Director, said he looks forward to working with the committee. He asked for the committee’s help with recruiting aquatics staff at Camp Snyder. He requested that we include working on the various boats at Camp Snyder as part of our Spring 2018 aquatics work day.