

National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
April 21 2010
Aquatics Adventures Scuba Academy, Alexandria Virginia

1. Opening:

- a. Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Committee Chairman, welcomed attendees and opened meeting. He thanked Marty Rayman for furnishing the meeting room and Evan Farr for supplying the teleconference capability.

Attending were:

Eric Steele (NCAC Program Director/Committee Advisor), Mike Meenehan,
Bob Brandel, Rush Kester, Mike Engiles

Via teleconference: Bob Greene

New committee members were noted: Bob Greene, interested in Swimming and Water Rescue training; Lee Hutchins, High Adventure Committee liaison; and Terry Idol, scuba instructor.

- b. Minutes of the December 16 meeting were approved.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Activities and Civic Service – NCAC committees have been restructured. The Aquatics Committee now reports to the new Outdoor Adventure Committee (along with Shooting Sports, Geocaching, COPE/Climbing). The Outdoor Adventure Committee is at the same level as the Program Impact (formerly Program) Committee.
- b. Sea Scouting – No report since Skipper Tom Ballew was attending his American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor class.
- c. High Adventure – No report
- d. Risk Management/Health and Safety – No report.
- e. Leadership Development (formerly Training Committee) – The Leadership Development Committee is promoting our Paddle Craft Safety and Swimming and Water Rescue courses.

3. University of Scouting Report – Isabel Mack reported that her and Chuck Trude’s Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat course was well attended and well received.

4. 2010 NCAC Centennial Camporee Aquatics Activities Status – Our committee is supporting four major activities at the Centennial Camporee at Goshen Scout Reservation May 29-31:

- a. **Venturing Sailing Program:** Rush Kester is the leading the sailing instruction on Sunday at Camp Marriott. He requests additional volunteer help.
- b. **Optional Aquatics Program:** Camps Bowman and Olmsted’s waterfronts will be open for swimming and boating on Saturday Noon-5pm and Monday 8-11am for early arriving and late leaving units. Units must preregister for aquatics activities. A maximum of 40 swimmers and 10 boaters per 30 min session. Rachel Johnson (former Camp Ross AD) will be the Camp Olmsted Aquatics Director, Bob Brandel (attending Aquatics Camp School 15-22 May) will be the Camp Bowman Aquatics Director. A few BSA Lifeguards have been contacted to assist. More volunteers are needed.
- c. **Iron Man Challenge:** This is a triathlon-like event that includes canoeing and kayaking across Lake Merriweather. Help is needed to man guard boats along the route. Bill Rooney is coordinating the activity.

- d. **Paddle Craft Safety Course:** A Paddle Craft Safety course will be offered all day Sunday at Camp PMI. Mike Meenehan and Bob Brandel will staff the course. A maximum of 16 students can be accommodated.
- 5. **Scuba Diving Merit Badge Update** – The new Scuba Diving Merit Badge has gotten a lot of good publicity. Marty Rayman’s merit badge offering was documented by PADI as being one of the first in the country. The merit badge was a hot topic of conversation at the recent PADI Member Forum in Northern Virginia.
- 6. **2010 Aquatics Training Courses/Activities** – The promotional flyer was reviewed. Activities include:
 - a. **Pre Camp Swim Classification Checks** – Camp Snyder Pool, June 12 (Harry Nagel, Chuck Trude) We have 80 registrations as of April 21. Eric Steele will work on recruiting additional staff.
 - b. **Scuba Merit Badge (including Open Water Certification)** – orientation Jun 5/6, class/pool Jun 12/13, open water Jun 19/20, merit badge session Jun 26. 3 registrations as of April 21. Could use divemaster help. Mike Meenehan is coordinating this activity.
 - c. **Aquatics Supervision (Swimming & Water Rescue, Paddle Craft Safety)** – will be offered at Goshen Scout Reservation waterfronts in 2010. See website for more information.
 - i. **Paddle Craft Safety**
 - 1. **Classroom sessions** – conducted at District training events or as requested. Several have been done so far.
 - 2. **Water sessions** – Scheduled for Centennial Camporee (May 30), Camp Snyder (Aug 15). Harry Nagel is running a troop PCS session on May 1 at Camp Snyder)
 - ii. **Swimming and Water Rescue** - Camp Snyder Aug 21. Register on website.
 - iii. Classroom sessions for PCS & SWR will be scheduled as needed
 - d. **BSA Lifeguard** – may be offered at Goshen Scout Reservation waterfronts for staff in 2010
 - e. **Scuba BSA** – Camp Snyder (Aug 29). This is a non-certification/try-it experience. 4 registrations as of Apr 21.
 - f. **BSA Lifeguard Challenge** – an ARC LG scout has requested to do a BSA LG challenge. Tentative date is May 27 in conjunction with a unit swim test in Fairfax VA. Mike Meenehan could use some help with this.
- 7. **2010 Pre-Camp Inspection Support**
 - a. Camp Snyder inspection was done on Mar 25. The pool and waterfront is in pretty good shape. The pool house has a major paint peeling issue that must be addressed.
 - b. Goshen Scout Reservation inspection will be done on May 1
 - c. Camp Airy. Date is TBD.
- 8. **NCAC Aquatics Records** – accurate aquatics records continue to be a challenge. This month it was Greg Larkin, Troop 600 who was looking for his BSA LG acknowledgement after completing the course at Marriott last summer. There is no record of his completion.

9. **ScubaJam VA** – Mike Engiles reported on the Scout scuba activity being planned for Labor Day weekend (4-5 Sept) at Lake Rawlings, VA. This is being organized by numerous scouters and dive shops. Mike is on the organizing committee.
10. **Silver Lake Master Plan** – Silver Lake is the new regional park across Antioch Road from Camp Snyder. There are potential aquatics venues such as boating on the lake and scuba in the quarry. Isabel Mack reported on the recent public hearing on the master plan development.
11. **NCAC Program Launch Packets** – NCAC will distribute all program launch information on CDs. The Aquatics Committee submitted aquatics material (Committee information flyer and 2010 activities schedule). There are several display boards available for your promotional use at your Roundtables or Program Launch: Aquatics Committee, Scuba BSA/Snorkel BSA, Cub Scout aquatics, Boy Scout aquatics, Leader aquatics.
12. **Scuba Liveaboard Opportunity** – Troop 1833 is looking to fill it's Blackbeard scout scuba liveaboard trip for August 14-20 in the Bahamas. Contact James Chaplin (jhchaplin@comcast.net) if interested.
13. **Professional's Minute** – Eric Steele mentioned the new NCAC Scout Executive/CEO, Les Baron in his announcements.
14. **Next meeting** – the next NCAC Aquatics Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, June 16 on the pool deck at Camp Snyder. This will be our annual BBQ so come hungry. We should have plenty of lifeguards available then for the pool...