

**National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
December 17 2014
American Legion Post 177, Fairfax VA**

1. Opening:

- a. Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Aquatics Committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees included Mike Meenehan, Carol Cass, Jason Wesbrock, Jack Regan, Julia Farr, Norman Laythe, Alan Deter and Alvin Fridie. Alvin Fridie, with Troop 544 in Washington D.C., was welcomed to his first Aquatics Committee meeting.
- b. The minutes of the September 15 2014 meeting were approved.
- c. A quick overview of the NCAC Aquatics Committee was done based on: the AC info flyer, roster, 2015 activities calendar, 2015 activities flyer and AC goals.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Sea Scouting – Tom Ballew mentioned two annual courses he will be teaching this year: Lifeguard Camp (Solomon’s Island, 1-7 August and Sea Badge Underway, in mid-July). They are no longer looking at Camp Snyder for the 2015 regatta location.
- b. High Adventure – Annual Florida Sea Base and Northern Tier provisional trips were highlighted.
- c. Enterprise Risk Management – Program Hazard Analysis will be a future ERM topic. PHAs are required for some aquatics activities.
- d. Leadership Training – Julia Farr had nothing to report.
- e. Venturing – Carol Cass mentioned that the next NCAC Powder Horn class is planned for TBD date. She also said the new Venturing advancement material is available.
- f. Advancement and Recognition Committee – Alan Deter mentioned the availability of advancement reports from GSR for this past summer. The ARC will be looking at the data.
- g. Camping – Meetings were held in September and November.

3. Aquatics Web Page – Carol Cass and Norman Laythe are doing a great job with the web page (www.ncacbsa.org/aquatics). They have online registration for most of the 2015 events already available. An additional Canoeing Merit Badge Counselor training session is being held on 2 May in Lexington Park, MD.

4. Recent Events – Aquatics events that happened since our last AC meeting were reviewed:

- a. 4 October – PCS course. Jason Wesbrock & Mike Meenehan staffed the course on a windy day. There were 7 participants. Jason is still working with one participant to successfully complete the written test.
- b. 23-26 October – Mike Meenehan attended the biennial National BSA Aquatics Workshop at the Florida Sea Base. There were numerous topics covered during the workshop. Several were mentioned later in the meeting. NCAC’s Aquatics Committee was noted as being the best in BSA.
- c. 1 November – the Area 6 Key Leader Forum was held in Northeast Maryland. The focus was on upcoming program changes.
- d. 8 November – the Northeast Region Outdoor Program Seminar was held at Camp Alpine NJ. Mike Meenehan attended the aquatics track.

- e. 15 November – Jason Wesbrock presented Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training to a total of 9 Cub Scout leaders at the NCAC Pow Wow training event. Mike Meenehan promoted aquatics at the midway display.
- f. 22 November – Mike Meenehan conducted a SWR/PCS classroom session at Camp Snyder for 2 participants.
- g. 7 & 14 December – Mike Meenehan conducted a swimming merit badge session for several scouts of Troop 380 in Washington DC at the Wilson Aquatics Center pool.

5. Upcoming Events – Upcoming aquatic events were discussed:

- a. 3 January – we will have an aquatics display at the NCAC Order of the Arrow lodge banquet. Several committee members will be attending are encouraged to help promote aquatics by manning the aquatics table in the display area.
- b. 10 January – SWR/PCS classroom session at Camp Snyder.
- c. 8 February – Scuba BSA session for Troop 895 to be held in Woodbridge VA.
- d. 14 Feb/ 28 Mar - SWR/PCS classroom sessions at Camp Snyder. These may be converted to SWR pool sessions at Henderson Hall and/or Quantico depending on results of coordination being done by Matthew Jongema and Marvin Kitchen.
- e. 28 February – University of Scouting. Aquatics activities planned include:
 - i. Midway display – Norman Laythe (along with ScubaJam)
 - ii. SSD/SA class – Tom Ryan
 - iii. Scuba class – Jim Chaplin/Tom Burns
- f. 28 February – BSA Aquatics Task Force meeting, Dallas TX. Mike Meenehan will attend.
- g. 21 March – Area 6 Key Leader Forum, Cecil College, Northeast MD. There should be an aquatics breakout.
- h. 25 April – PCS water session at Camp Snyder.
- i. 2 May – Canoeing Merit Badge Counselor training. Lexington Park, MD. Being organized by Leigh DePiazza.

6. Goshen Scout Reservation Aquatics –

- a. Staff interviews should be happening in January.
- b. Volunteer boat drivers will be needed next summer. Any volunteers should have taken a Virginia Safe Boaters course.
- c. Jack Regan mentioned the sale of surplus HMMWVs might be of interest to NCAC.
- d. Orange grids are used to track youth advancement and adult training. There is 1 grid for every class. We have received all 2014 summer files from Gary. The hundreds of pages have been filtered to just the aquatics pages. Each camp is slightly different: Bowman has excel files with tabs for each course, Marriott has separate excel files for each course, Olmsted had hardcopy pdf pages for each. Jason Wesbrock volunteered to review the aquatics grids to look for trends in the aquatics merit badges and other aquatics training/awards.

7. Camp Snyder Aquatics

- a. Camp Snyder is awaiting the hiring of a new Camp Director to replace Reggie Cahoon.
- b. Numerous 2015 aquatics activities are planned for Camp Snyder.

8. Camp Airy Aquatics

- a. There was nothing to report on Camp Airy.

9. Regional/National News

- a. The Paddle Ready App was recently released by the American Canoeing Association. It is available for both iPhones and Android phones. It has many useful paddling capabilities (e.g., online float plans, access to river gauges)
- b. Several items were announced at the FSB Aquatics Workshop:
 - i. The new Cub Scout aquatics-related advancement adventures were reviewed. Changes are being proposed for the Guide to Safe Scouting/Safety Afloat to support the new requirements.
 - ii. Training codes for PCS & SWR instructors are being implemented for Scoutnet.
 - iii. BSA is developing a strategic partnership with USA Swimming Foundation to promote Learn to Swim. NCAC is one of 8 pilot councils for this effort. We are looking for someone to coordinate this effort for us.

10. Other

- a. At the Pow Wow, the Piedmont District RT Commissioner requested an aquatics presentation for their spring Roundtable.
- b. The National Camp School 2015 schedule is available. NCS aquatics training is the highest level of aquatics training available in BSA. Committee members are encouraged to attend NCS.
- c. Jack Reagan mentioned the availability of rental canoes at Belle Haven marina. He will check into the availability of boardsails for the Boardsailing BSA award.
- d. Mike Meenehan pointed out the list of NCAC Aquatics Committee goals. He encouraged everyone to review them and figure out how they can help achieve them.

11. Next Aquatics Committee Meeting

The next quarterly Aquatics Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 16 2015 at the Marriott Scout Service Center.

12. Professional's Minute

Gary Carroll had an emergency and could not attend the meeting but sent his regrets and thanks to the volunteers of the NCAC Aquatics Committee. Mike Meenehan presented everyone with a Council Aquatics Committee patch along with his thanks for a great year of Scouting aquatics.