

**National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
June 15 2011**

Camp William B. Snyder Pool Pavilion, Haymarket Virginia

1. Opening:

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Committee Chairman, welcomed attendees to the annual pool party and June meeting. Attendees introduced themselves:

Carol Cass, Bob Brandel, Harry Nagel, Tom Ryan, Lee Hutchins, Julia Farr, and Don Zumbach. Nine additional family members and guests were present.

Mike welcomed new members Alan Deter (NCAC Advancement and Recognition Committee), Lou Novak and Nancy Lieberman (Sea Scout Ship 1942).

Jeremy Oyen (ACA Trainer) has left the area/Aquatics Committee and moved to Washington as REI's training coordinator.

Minutes of the June 16 2011 meeting were approved.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Sea Scouting – Lou Novak mentioned an upcoming canoe trip to Malloys Bay. Harry Nagel has made that trip previously and provided ideas for Lou.
 - b. High Adventure – Lee Hutchins reported on NCAC's Sea Exploring Adventure provisional trip to the Florida Sea Base.
 - c. Risk Management/Health and Safety – Brian Steger, NCAC Deputy Scout Executive, is now advising the RM/H&S committee. There are plans to combine the two groups into one committee
 - d. Leadership Development – Julia Farr reported that she is moving on to new opportunities as of June 2011. Chip Souser is the incoming training chairman.
 - e. Venturing – Carol Cass reported on the upcoming Powderhorn training. There will be several aquatics components to the training.
 - f. Advancement and Recognition – Alan Deter mentioned the new BSA Advancement Guidelines will be rolled out at Philmont Training Center advancement training sessions this summer. He will attend PTC in August. The draft Advancement Guidelines now address merit badge counselor qualifications required to teach merit badges, including several aquatics ones.
3. **Goshen Precamp inspections** – On 26 March Rob Martin and Mike Meenehan supported the pre camp inspections of the Goshen camp waterfronts. Items needing maintenance before the summer camping season were noted.
 4. **Paddle Craft Safety Course:** On 7 May Harry Nagel instructed a Paddle Craft Safety course at Camp Snyder and Silver Lake.
 5. **BSA/ARC Lifeguard course** – Mike Meenehan and Rush Kester led a combined BSA and American Red Cross lifeguarding course that started 15 May and concluded 12 June. Four participants completed the course. It is hoped that the training will again be able to be offered next year. Rush received his BSA Lifeguard Instructor after teaching the course.
 6. **Pre Camp Swim Tests** – Approximately 70 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Leaders participated in the pre camp swim classification tests at Camp Snyder on 11 June. Most were going to non-NCAC camps that accept swim classifications done by BSA Aquatics Instructors or BSA Lifeguards. Goshen camps waterfronts do not accept these swim classification tests.

7. **Program Launch** – several good comments were received about the quality of the aquatics information contained in the CDs distributed to NCAC units as part of the annual program launch.
8. **Training Statistics** – over the past two years NCAC has offered 13 Paddle Craft Safety/Swimming and Water Rescue training courses. 66 scouters have participated with 38 having completed both classroom and water portions of the training.
9. **Scuba BSA** – Lee Hutchins will assist Mike Meenehan with the Scuba BSA session on 19 June at Camp Snyder.
10. **Upcoming Lifeguard Courses** – Tom Ballew (tballew@cox.net) will host his annual BSA Lifeguard/American Red Cross Lifeguard Sea Scout Camp at Solomons Island on 17-22 July. Rush Kester (rwkester@aol.com) will lead an ARC Lifeguarding course in Laurel MD on 25 Jul – 5 Aug.
11. **Scuba Certification and Scuba Diving Merit Badge** – There will be a PADI open water certification course held at Camp Snyder on 20-21 August (with open water dives on 27-28 Aug). A Scuba Diving Merit Badge session will be held on August 30. Registration is available online.
12. **ScubaJam 2011** – Mike Engiles (mengiles@comcast.net) is Vice-Chairman of this annual event at Lake Rawlings, VA 3-5 September. This is a scuba weekend designed for scouts. Activities include Scuba Diving Merit Badge, Scavenger Hunt, Navigation & Buoyancy Challenge and Robotics. See <http://www.scubajam-va.org/>
13. **Aquatics Committee Support for NCAC camps** – One of the NCAC Aquatics Committee's functions is to provide support for NCAC camps. We do this by helping with the precamp inspections and by providing resources for the Aquatics Directors to meet national BSA inspection standards. Gary Carroll will represent the Aquatics Committee at Goshen this summer. Mike Meenehan has met with the new Camp Snyder Aquatics Director.
14. **National Camp School** – This year BSA sent all the resource materials distributed at NCS aquatics sections on a USB drive to all Councils. The aquatics files are about 150MB of data. If you want a copy, send Mike Meenehan a note. He will burn you a CD with the files. NCAC had about 4 Aquatics Directors attend NCS at Hawk Mountain.
15. **2011-2012 Activity Calendar** –
 - a. **2011-2012 meeting schedule** – 15 Jun 11, 21 Sept 11, 21 Dec 11, 21 Mar 12, 20 Jun 12
 - b. **Regular Aquatics Supervision Courses** – the intent is to schedule regular Swimming and Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safety training courses. We need more qualified instructors for these courses. The next Swimming and Water Rescue course is 30 July at Camp Snyder. Online registration is available.
 - c. **Lifeguard Recertification** – several scouters have expressed interest in a BSA Lifeguard recertification course.
16. **Aquatics Guideline Decisions** – the Aquatics Committee decided to clarify two issues to be highlighted on the NCAC Aquatics Guideline webpage:
 - a. **Aquatics Merit badge counselor qualifications** – Canoeing, Rowing and Whitewater merit badge books all list specific qualifications that merit badge counselor should have to be considered qualified to teach those subjects. Currently the wording in the merit badge books is ambiguous about the need for the training as a condition of registering as a merit badge counselor. In keeping with the intent of the merit badge pamphlet authors, the NCAC Aquatics Committee is strongly

recommending that those particular merit badge counselors have the recommended training as a condition of registering as a merit badge counselor. The Aquatic Committee will endeavor to make the referenced training conveniently available to Scouters in NCAC.

- b. **Swim Classification Tests** – per Chapter 5 of BSA’s Aquatics Supervision, “Any conscientious adult who is familiar with basic swimming strokes and who understands and abides by the following guidelines can administer the test.” This refers to unit swim classification tests that should be completed annually. BSA Council Summer Camps typically require swim classification tests to be completed at their waterfront. Some camps will accept pre-camp swim classification tests conducted by BSA Aquatics Instructors or BSA Lifeguards. NCAC Goshen Scout Reservation camps do not accept pre-camp swim classification tests – mainly due to the difference between swimming in a turbid lake and a clear swimming pool. See the link “Making Swim Tests Less Stressful” at www.boyscouts-ncac.org/aquatics for more information.
17. **NCAC Aquatics Committee polo shirts** – if you are interested in getting a polo shirt with the NCAC logo and “Aquatics Committee” please let Mike Meenehan (mmenehan@cox.net) know. The cost will probably be about \$20-\$25 per shirt.
18. **Next Aquatics Committee meeting** – the next Aquatics Committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 21. Probably in Bethesda, MD.