

National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2011
American Legion Post 177, Fairfax Virginia

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Committee Chairman, welcomed attendees to the March NCAC quarterly Aquatics Committee meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves: Mike Meenehan, Rush Kester, Bob Greene, Harry Nagel, Don Zumbach, Julia Farr and Gary Carroll.

Meeting minutes from the December 15 2010 Aquatics Committee meeting were approved.

NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

Sea Scouts – No report. Tom Ballew passed along that Arlington County Red Cross was planning an ARC Lifeguard Instructor class if they can get a minimum of 6 participants. Nancy Lieberman (njlieberman@gmail.com) is interested in attending and is the point of contact for those interested.

High Adventure Committee – No report The Florida Sea Base has a new scuba referral option for spring and fall scuba programs. You can do the pool/classroom work at home and go to FSB to do your open water training dives to complete open water certification. Several NCAC units going to Northern Tier HA Bases have openings for additional participants.

Health and Safety – No report The BSA recently published a new Annual Health and Medical Record (14 pages!). There are no more separate forms for the national high adventure bases. The new form (and the updated Guide to Safe Scouting) changes the BSA policy on well-controlled asthma and scuba diving. Everyone should be familiar with the updated Guide to Safe Scouting aquatics section.

Leadership Development Committee – Julia Farr, LDC Chairman, reported the recent changes in the NCAC pilot mandatory training program.

Website – Carol Cass was at the NCAC web developers kick-off meeting that night.

Reports on Recent Events:

Commissioner College 22 Jan – the Aquatics Committee had a display with the other program committees.

Aquatics Supervision Training – Sea Scout Training at Catocin 5 Feb, Colonial District 12 Feb, George Mason District 5 Mar. A big thanks to trainers Bob Brandel, Harry Nagel, and Mike Fijalka.

University of Scouting 26 Feb – Rush Kester helped man the Aquatics Committee midway display. Isabel Mack and Chuck Trude presented Safety Afloat/Safe Swim Defense Training. Mike Meenehan presented a BSA Aquatics overview and an Intro to Scuba session.

Planning for 2011 Aquatics Activities are well underway. Gary Carroll is working to get online registration up for all the events. Info is on the aquatics web page and hardcopy flyers are available:

Paddle Craft Safety training – May 7 Camp Snyder

BSA/ARC Lifeguard – May 15, 21, 22, June 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19

Pre-camp Swim Tests – Jun 11 Camp Snyder

Scuba BSA – Jun 19 Camp Snyder

Swimming and Water Rescue training – July 30

Scuba Certification/merit badge – Aug 7, 20, 21, 27, 28, 30

Help is needed with all these activities. Please check your schedule and let Mike Meenehan know if you are available to help.

BSA requires Canoeing merit badge counselors to have formal training in canoeing instruction. Besides BSA Aquatics Instructors, the only widely available instruction is via American Canoe Association instructors. Jeremy Oyen, ACA Director of Safety Education, Instruction and Outreach, has agreed to run a weekend Canoeing MBC training session to meet the BSA requirements. Those interested in the course should contact Jeremy (joyen@americancanoe.org).

The Professional Association of Dive Instructors has produced a 57 slide PowerPoint file for presenting the Scuba Diving merit badge. Contact your local PADI professional to get a copy.

Goshen Scout Reservation and Camp William B. Snyder aquatics support. Part of the NCAC Aquatics Committee mission is to provide aquatics support for our local council camps. The following are upcoming activities related to that support:

Camp Standards/Goshen Pre Camp inspections – On March 25/26 Mike Meenehan and Rob Martin will represent the aquatics committee at the annual pre camp inspections. We will focus on the waterfront facilities. Gary Carroll will be at GSR numerous times this summer and will function as the Aquatics Committee representative to coordinate mandatory camp standard requirements. The Camp Snyder Pre Camp inspection is TBD.

Aquatics Training – National Camp Standards require SWR and PCS training be offered to adult leaders while in camp. There is concern about the Aquatics Directors not having enough time to present that training. Dave Wilcox, former Aquatics Director and current BSA Aquatics Instructor, will be available at GSR this summer to present that training.

Aquatics Directors – Mike Meenehan traditionally meets with the GSR Aquatics Directors during senior staff week to discuss how we can help the ADs meet the required aquatics-related camp standards.

Camp Snyder – the Aquatics Committee has been asked to help set usage fees/policies for various Camp Snyder aquatics resources (e.g., pool fee, canoe/trailer rental). One suggestion is that we require Paddle Craft Safety training for anyone wanting to use the Camp Snyder canoes. Let Mike Meenehan know your ideas.

Bob Brandel (Robert.Brandel@gdit.com) is on a list where he receives notices of jobs for Aquatics Directors at Scout Camps around the country. Contact him if you are interested in that information.

The Aquatics Committee recently received a request for a waiver of the First Class swimming requirement for a scout. It was discussed and determined that the request needed to go through the Council's Youth Advancement and Recognition committee since it was a rank requirement on the trail to Eagle.

Gary Carroll, the Aquatics Committee new NCAC Professional Advisor, wrapped up the meeting with a few comments. Gary brings a wealth of BSA aquatics experience and is excited about being our new Advisor.

The next NCAC Aquatics Committee meeting will be on June 15, 2011. The location is to be determined.