

National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
March 21 2012

Marriott Scout Service Center, Bethesda, MD

1. Opening:

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Committee Lead, welcomed attendees to the March meeting. Numerous committee members RSVP'd with conflicts for the evening. Attendees were: Gary Carroll, Bob Brandel, Rush Kester and Ken Vierra. Minutes of the December 21 2011 meeting were approved. The traditional quarterly 3rd Wednesday Aquatics Committee meeting may have to be moved due to conflicts arising with our Advisor's new NCAC position.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Sea Scouting – Tom Ballew is holding his annual Sea Scout lifeguard camp in Solomons, MD on July 29 – Aug 3.
- b. High Adventure – 2012 NCAC Florida Sea Base Disadvantaged Crew Opportunity: NCAC is sponsoring a Sea Base crew for disadvantaged youth for a week beginning 7/11/12. The estimated cost per person is \$100 to 350. For more information, contact Wes Haynes at Wes.Haynes@scouting.org or 301-943-8376.
- c. Leadership Training – No aquatics input.
- d. Venturing – The NE Region Area 6 Venturing Phenomenon will be held at Camp Snyder on April 20-22 2012. Ken Vierra will contact Carol Cass for details.
- e. Advancement and Recognition – Mike Meenehan made an aquatics presentation at the March 7 committee meeting. The upcoming Kayaking merit badge was discussed since recruiting qualified merit badge counselors is a District Advancement responsibility.
- f. Outdoor Adventure/Camping Committee – The Aquatics Committee falls under the NCAC Outdoor Adventure (OA) committee structure. The camping committee was holding its meeting on the same night.

3. Aquatics Web Page:

Carol Cass is doing a great job with the NCAC Aquatics Committee web pages. She implemented online registration for the monthly Paddle Craft Safety and Swimming and Water Rescue courses. She is in test mode for the Pre-camp swim test, Lifeguard and Scuba courses. The Aquatics Committee web page has been moved to a link from the Camping Committee page to align with the new committee structure.

4. Reports on Recent events:

- a. University of Scouting, Feb 25. The Dive Shop and the Aquatics Committee had well attended displays. Aquatics courses presented were: Safety Afloat/Safe Swim Defense course (Mike Meenehan and Chip Souser) and Scuba (Mike Meenehan).
- b. Paddle Craft Safety Training, Mar 3. 5 participants completed the classroom portion of the PCS training held at Camp Snyder.
- c. District Swim meet, Mar 16. Mike Turell ran his 31st annual swim meet for Appalachian Trail District. Over 70 scouts participated. Mike has a system that does not involve timing (heats are run for various categories). The entire process took

about 45 minutes. This is a great activity that could be run in the Districts and/or at Camp Snyder.

5. Mile Swim Award Program:

Chuck Frizzel was not available to detail the Mile Swim award program. It sounds like the usual program start up challenges are happening. Ken Vierra mentioned his follow up with Lifetime Fitness in Herndon. The pool may not be as available as first thought. There was a discussion of the level of training needed to supervise the Mile Swim Award. A further look at the requirements gives Councils flexibility to make that determination.

6. NCAC Camp support:

- a. The Goshen precamp inspection is happening on 24 March. Mike Meenehan and Rachel Johnson will support with a focus on the aquatics facilities.
- b. The Snyder precamp inspection is scheduled for Wednesday, 4 April.
- c. Area 6 Visitation training is scheduled for 31 Mar in Baltimore.

7. Aquatics Committee shirts:

NCAC Aquatics Committee shirts are available at <http://www.queensboro.com/ref/ECMRQEBMORN> Select logo/design# 13202003. There are a variety of shirts styles available. As a first time customer I believe you will be offered a special deal on your first purchase.

8. 2012-2013 Aquatics Program dates:

The dates for 2012-2013 NCAC aquatics programs were submitted for the 2012-2013 NCAC Calendar. The list was distributed to the committee for information. The calendar will be part of Program Launch. Other aquatics information for program launch will include: Aq. Comm. flyer, Activities Overview, SWR courses, PCS courses, Scuba BSA, Lifeguard course, Scuba Certification/merit badge and Scuba Jam flyers.

9. Upcoming Courses

- a. Mar 31 – Swimming and Water Rescue (Camp Snyder – classroom portion). Harry Nagel has the lead for this course
- b. Apr 28 – Paddle Craft Safety (Camp Snyder – classroom and water). Tom Ryan has the lead.
- c. BSA/ARC Lifeguard Course May 20, June 9/10, 16/17, 23/24 (Camp Snyder) Mike Meenehan and Rush Kester will cover. Additional staff help is desired.
- d. It was suggested that during off-season that the classroom portions of PCS & SWR be offered on the same day rather than as separate half day sessions.

10. BSA Aquatics Task Force eNewsletter

Communication from the National Aquatics Task Force included information on:

- a. New online Safe Swim Defense should be rolled out in May.
- b. An updated Safety Afloat DVD was distributed to Councils. It is available from Scouting.org (SKU#612934, \$3.99). We will try to make copies. It includes:
 - New Safety Afloat training video (running time 24:00)

- Updated Paddle Craft Safety Course -new PowerPoint slides & instructor guide (English and Spanish), printable SA pocket card and certificate, changes minimum age from 16 years old to 15, new canoe and kayak skills videos, and new Safety Afloat training information sheet.
- c. American Red Cross Lifeguard Program update – was rolled out in February. Change in some skills and emphasis. Better instructional materials.
- d. Kayaking Merit Badge – to be rolled out in May. We need to work with District Advancement committees to support their recruitment of appropriate Kayaking Merit Badge Counselors. Suggest they visit www.americancanoe.org/?page=Find_Instructors to recruit ACA instructors. Ken Vierra volunteered to contact ACA to get an ACA liaison to the Aquatics Committee.
- e. The Biennial 2012 Aquatics Task Force Workshop is scheduled for Oct 31 – Nov 4 in Arkansas.

11. **The Dive Shop** – Ken Vierra

Ken is enrolled in an ARC FA/CPR Instructor Trainer course. He indicated a willingness to train BSA leaders as FA/CPR instructors. He will work with the ARC and NCAC to investigate using the MSSC as an ARC training facility. He is trying to get together with Reggie Cahoon, Camp Snyder Director, to discuss scouting activities that could use the Millbrook quarry.

12. **2012 National Camp School**

The 2012 BSA National Camp School schedule is available at www.ncsbsa.org/calendar. NCS is the only place to get BSA Aquatics Instructor certification.

13. **Camp Snyder Pool Rental**

We received advice from BSA National that Safe Swim Defense policies need not be enforced when renting the pool to non-BSA groups. Gary Carroll related that Reggie Cahoon decided that:

1. Non scout organizations renting the pool must have Safe Swim Defense training
2. The pool rental fee would include Camp Snyder-furnished lifeguards.

There was a discussion about how many lifeguards would be needed to safely guard the pool. There wasn't consensus on the required minimum number. The Aquatics Committee recommends the lifeguards conduct a limited swim test for those wanting to use the slides (demonstrate jumping in and swimming one length across the deep end). There was also a discussion about new ADA pool compliance requirements. See <http://b2b.bel-aqua.com/default.aspx?page=customer&file=customer/beposu/customerpages/ADA.htm> for more information. There appears to be an interpretation that the regulations would not apply to the Camp Snyder pool.

14. **Next Aquatics Committee meeting** – June 20, 2012. Will be our annual Aquatics Committee family pool party/June meeting at the Camp Snyder pool pavilion.