

**National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17 2014**

1. Opening:

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Aquatics Committee lead, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to snowfall the MSSC was closed for the day. The meeting was held via teleconference. Participants included Mike Meenehan, Gary Carroll, Carol Cass, Rush Kester, Norman Laythe, Geoff Dewitt, and Dave Condon.

The minutes of the December 18 2013 meeting were approved.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Sea Scouting – Tom Ballew was not present because he was at a Ship meeting. He has expressed interest in using the Camp Snyder pool and Silver Lake for the annual Sea Scout NCAC Memorial Day Weekend “Henry Nygard Regatta” starting in 2015.
- b. High Adventure – The NCAC HA Committee is sponsoring at least two potentially aquatics-related provisional trips this summer – one to the Florida Sea Base and one to the Summit.
- c. Venturing – Carol Cass mentioned that changes to the Venturing award/advancement/recognition program will be announced at the national meeting in May.
- d. Youth Advancement and Recognition – Working with the YAR committee we have scheduled a Canoeing Merit Badge assessment course on 4 May. We have gotten good promotion of the session via the Council/District Merit Badge Deans. This activity will help the counselors meet the certification requirements specified in BSA’s Guide to Advancement.
- e. Enterprise Risk Management – Laura Hungerford is leading an ERM subcommittee on NCAC/American Red Cross coordination. Rush Kester and Carol Cass expressed interest in the activity.
- f. Camping – The NCAC Camping committee has been working on the Goshen Scout Reservation long-range plan.

3. Aquatics Web Page – Carol Cass has been very busy with the aquatics page and NCAC webmaster duties. NCAC has hired a fulltime webmaster (Amanda). She will start 1 April. Norman Laythe has volunteered to help Carol with web matters. Carol and Norman are meeting tomorrow to start the training/mentoring process.

4. Recent Events –

- a. 4 Jan – Swimming and Water Rescue/Paddle Craft Safety course @ Camp Snyder. 3 participants
- b. 18 Jan – Scuba BSA session for Falls Church troop. Held in Woodbridge. 15 participants.
- c. 1-2 Feb – BSA Aquatics Task Force meeting, Irving TX –
 - i. Health & Safety – new medical form being rolled out
 - ii. 2013 BSA aquatics fatalities review – there were 2 (one in the boundary waters area, the other was a 67 year old climbing back on a boat – both were heart attacks)

- iii. There is a new BSA/ARC POC at the ARC National Headquarters (Tom Heneghan)
- iv. Aquatics Supervision book price is now \$30. It was previously \$15.99 (will have to adjust the price of our SWR/PCS course).
- v. Looking at developing new BSA aquatics awards: e.g., coastal kayaking, Venturing, personal watercraft
- vi. Working on new moving water component for PCS course. Dependent on grant application to USCG.
- vii. Cub Aquatics 411 – All CS aquatics will be electives rather than requirements. This is due to lack of guaranteed access to pools and teaching resource materials.
- viii. The main BSA aquatics documents are Guide to Safe Scouting, Aquatics Supervision, Aquatics Staff Guide, NCS Aquatics Lesson Plan and NCAP Standards. Section V is going away.
- ix. Only “free” documents will be available in softcopy/on web. No more No Aquatics Supervision, MB books, BS Handbook, or Fieldbook.
- x. Aquatics Play Structures – policy will be in documented in the GtSS, procedures will be in the Aquatics Staff Guide.
- xi. Draft Whitewater Policy – good guidance on using commercial outfitters. Will require helmets for Class II water.
- xii. 2014 BSA Aquatics Workshop – 22-26 Oct at Florida Sea Base. Open to all. Update on BSA Aquatics, Skills focused; SUP Instructor session, BSA Aquatics Instructor crossover to ARC LGI session.
- d. 8 Feb – PADI member update. Reviewed new Open Water Diver course requirements.
- e. 23 Feb – University of Scouting
 - i. Safe Swim Defense & Safety Afloat courses (Tom Ryan & Chuck Trude)
 - ii. Scuba (Jim Chaplin)
 - iii. ScubaJam VA display (Norman Laythe – reported on a great time discussing diving and aquatics with the UoS participants)
- f. 1 Mar – NER Area 6 Council Workshop, North East MD. Mike Meenehan is the new Area 6 aquatics advocate.
- g. 14 Mar - 33rd Annual Pack & Troop 278 Invitational Swim Meet, Appalachian Trail Dist. – Mike Turell

5. Upcoming Activities – staff help is needed with all these:

- a. 22 March – Goshen Precamp inspection
- b. 29 March – SWR/PCS classroom session at CWBS. 5 participants
- c. 5 April – NER Camp Assessment training. BAC
- d. 26 April – PCS classroom & water, CWBS
- e. 3 May – ARC CPR Pro & FA, CWBS. John Merchant helping
- f. 4 May – Canoe MBC Assessment, CWBS, Sean Tierny (ACA Inst), 2 registered
- g. 18 May – LG swim test (Rush available to help?) 1 registered
- h. 7-13 June – NCS at Broad Creek SR, Baltimore MD(Geoff Dewitt’s session)
- i. 7-8, 14-15 June - ARC/BSA LG course, CWBS
- j. 8 June - Unit Swim Test, CWBS

- k. 15 June – Scuba BSA, CWBS
- l. 28 June – SWR (classroom & pool), CWBS

- 6. 2014-2015 Calendar and events** – schedule was submitted as part of NCAC calendar process (see handout). Same activities (plus 2 new) as last year with new dates. Flyers submitted for program launch included: 2014 Aquatics Activities flyer, 2015 Aquatics Activities flyer, BSA LG 2014, Canoe MB Counselor Assessment 2014, CPR AED FA 2014, PCS 2014, Scuba BSA 2014, SnyderScuba2014, SwimTestSnyder 2014, SWR 2014, ACinfoflyer2014
- 7. Goshen Scout Reservation** – Goshen was featured in Scouting magazine’s Cool Camp video. 95% of the 3 minute video is about aquatics. Tom Warner (Bowman Aquatics Director) is featured. Another video highlights the new Galveston Sea Base. The video features Eric Steele, former NCAC Aquatics Committee Advisor and Camp Snyder Director.

The GSR Pre-Camp Inspection is Saturday 22 Mar. Could use help. We go down Fri night and stay in the double wide trailer. The camp inspections are done on Saturday morning.

Dave Condon reviewed the options for improvements needed for motorboat operation – such as lengthening the boat launch ramp and construction of a floating dock. He also mentioned that the boat yard that had been providing boat maintenance has gone out of business. Dave and Tom Warner expressed reservations about program plans for the ski boats. Their concerns will be addressed offline. Dave has ideas for BSA motorboat operator training. He will generate some ideas in an email. Geoff Dewitt mentioned that US Power Squadron is a resource for providing boating training.

Gary mentioned that the Goshen Bears will be installing marker buoys on Lake Merriweather to mark hazardous areas. Mike Meenehan will visit with the Aquatics Directors during staff week to ensure they have what they need for a successful aquatics season. Two Aquatics Directors are still needed for this summer (for Camps Olmsted and PMI)

- 8. Camp Snyder** – Committee members were asked to review the instructions for procedures to conduct canoe training at Camp Snyder. Mike Meenehan has been asked several times by unit leaders on what they must do to conduct canoe training for their units at Camp Snyder. Mike put together a list of POCs and procedures for accomplishing the training. Once approved by the committee, the information will be posted to the Camp Snyder page and/or the Aquatics Committee page.

The NCAC canoe trailer needs to be registered to transport canoes over to Silver Lake from Camp Snyder. Reggie Cahoon is researching the availability of any registration documentation at NCAC. Rumor has it that the trailer was donated to NCAC numerous years ago by someone at NIH. Dave Condon volunteered to assist with the registration process.

Geoff Dewitt recently completed his Certified Pool Operator course. He is planning on helping open/maintain the Camp Snyder pool for use this summer.

- 9. Aquatics Inquiries** – Mike Meenehan has fielded numerous questions about BSA aquatics. Some of the inquiries have been about assistance with conducting unit swim tests, whether zip lines are allowed over aquatics areas, and several calls about Canoeing Merit badge counselor qualifications and opportunities for training.
- 10. Next Aquatics Committee Meeting** – the next meeting will be Wednesday, June 11 at the Camp Snyder pool. This will be our annual family pool party.
- 11. Professional's Minute** – Gary Carroll expressed his thanks for the efforts of all the hard working volunteers on the NCAC Aquatics Committee.