

National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
March 16 2015
Marriott Scout Service Center, Bethesda MD

1. Opening:

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Aquatics Committee lead, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Participants included Mike Meenehan, Gary Carroll, Bob Brandel (via telcon), Rush Kester, Norman Laythe, Jason Wesbrock, Alvin Fridie, and Mychal Tanullow. The minutes of the December 17 2014 meeting were approved.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Sea Scouting – Tom Ballew was not present because he was at a Ship meeting. Tom will be conducting the annual Sea Scout Lifeguard Camp this summer.
- b. High Adventure – The NCAC HA Committee is trying to fill a second provisional FSB Coral Reef Sailing Adventure and a provisional trip to Northern Tier.
- c. Enterprise Risk Management – The ERM committee reminded us that PHAs must be completed for the aquatics play structures (water trampolines at GSR, slides at CWBS). Next meeting is May 19.
- d. Camping – The NCAC Camping committee meets on Wednesday, March 18.

3. Aquatics Web Page –

Carol Cass and Norman Laythe are doing a great job with the web page. All 2015 activities have online registration now available. Several events for this summer already have registrations. That is considerably earlier than usual, probably due to the early online registration availability.

4. Recent Events –

- a. 10 Jan – PCS/SWR classroom session was cancelled since there was only 1 registrant. He rescheduled for the 28 March session.
- b. 8 Feb – Scuba BSA session that was set up for Falls Church troop but was opened to others. Was held in Woodbridge. 33 participants.
- c. 14 Feb – PCS/SWR classroom session was cancelled since there was only 1 registrant. He rescheduled for the 28 March session.
- d. 28 Feb – University of Scouting
 - i. Safe Swim Defense & Safety Afloat courses (Tom Ryan)
 - ii. Scuba (Jim Chaplin)
 - iii. Midway aquatics display (Norman Laythe & Mike Meenehan)
- e. 7 Mar – Aquatics session at NCS at Camp Snyder (Mike Meenehan)
- f. 1 Mar – NER Area 6 Council Workshop, North East MD. Mike Meenehan is the new Area 6 aquatics advocate.

5. Upcoming Activities –

Staff help is needed with all these:

- a. 21 March – Area 6 Council Workshop at Cecil College in North East, MD. There will be a Council Aquatics Committee presentation.
- b. 28 March – SWR/PCS classroom session at CWBS. There are 5 registrations. Mike Meenehan will instruct.

- c. 28 March – Camp Assessor Training, Baltimore Area Council. This training is required for those performing camp inspections. The training is useful for aquatics folks to learn what specifically is expected for camp aquatics programs.
- d. 25 April – Paddle Craft Safety course, CWBS, 1 registered. Mike Meenehan to instruct (can use some help!)
- e. 2 May - Canoeing Merit Badge Counselor Training, Lexington Park MD. Leigh DePiazza is setting this up as a Wood Badge ticket item. It is listed on the aquatics webpage. Mike Meenehan to instruct.
- f. 2 May – GSR pre-camp inspection. Rush Kester will support.
- g. 3 May – ARC CPR Pro & FA, CWBS. John Merchant helping
- h. 17 May – LG course swim test at Freedom Aquatics Center in Manassas. 2 participants are registered. Mike Meenehan to conduct.
- i. 30-31 May – BSA/ARC Lifeguard course, weekend 1 at CWBS. Conducted by Mike Meenehan (can use some help!)
- j. 6-7 June - - BSA/ARC Lifeguard course, weekend 2
- k. 6 June - Unit Swim Test, CWBS
- l. 10 June – Aquatics Committee meeting/BBQ/Pool party at CWBS pool
- m. 11 June – Pre-camp meeting with GSR Aquatics Directors
- n. 14 June – Scuba BSA, CWBS

6. 2014-2015 Calendar and events –

- a. NCAC has requested aquatics activity dates for June 2015 – June 2016. We had a calendar through Dec 2015. It was discussed that the Jan/Feb classroom-based Aquatics Supervision courses had little attendance. So they have been dropped from the 2016 schedule. Spring 2016 activities were replicated (with date adjustments) from the 2015 calendar. Gary Carroll furnished the Google Drive NCAC calendar link and the dates were posted.
- b. CWBS has decided to close the pool at the end of camp rather than remaining open til Labor Day. That impacts our 29 Aug SWR course. It will be moved to 8 Aug (Jason Wesbrock to be lead instructor),
- c. Rush Kester suggested sponsoring water sessions to support Boy Scout 2nd and 1st Class requirements.

7. Goshen Scout Reservation –

- a) 2014 GSR aquatics data. Jason Wesbrock analyzed the 2014 advancement data from the Goshen Scout Camps waterfronts and generated graphs showing the information. Some anomalies were notes: Olmsted weeks 3 & 4 data were duplicates and the data was missing the first year Scout program data. Marriott had the most varied program.
- b) Mychal Tanullow will be the GSR aquatics coordinator for the 2015 season.
- c) The concrete barrel dock anchors need to be reburied at several camps.
- d) Docking procedures for the pontoon shuttle boat needs attention of the ADs and CDs.
- e) There was a discussion of the required certifications for boat drivers. There is no question that the shuttle and ski boat operators (adults) must have Safe Boat Operator training. The discussion focused on youth operation for the motoboating merit badge. Since the johnboats used for the merit badge do not exceed a certain horsepower the scouts do not need the certification per Virginia regulations.

- f) On May 2 NCAC will be conducting pre-camp inspections of GSR. The Aquatics Committee traditionally supports by inspecting the GSR camp waterfronts. Rush Kester will support.
- g) Mike Meenehan showed the safe swim defense sign that was made for the GSR swimming hole. Mike Jolly will install the 12"x18" sign on a tree at the swimming hole to remind unit leaders of their responsibilities.
- h) On Jun 11 Mike Meenehan will be meeting with the GSR Aquatics Directors to discuss aquatics operations at GSR. He distributes resources and discusses best practices to consider.
- i) New BSA policy requires program hazard analysis (PHA) for aquatics play structures. Webelos Camps Ross and PMI have water trampolines that require PHAs. The ADs will be directed to complete the PHAs.

8. Camp Snyder –

- a) Shirley Couteau is the new CWBS Program Director.
- b) It was decided by NCAC that it was too expensive to keep the pool open past the last day of camp for the limited usage that is planned. The pool will close on Aug 16. We have moved the Aug 29 SWR course to Aug 8.

9. Camp Airy –

- a) Nothing to report

10. Camp Wall (USVI) –

- a) Mike Meenehan met Mr. Steve Hunte (340-626-6810, rescue_52@hotmail.com) at NCS. Steve is a former lifeguard and would like to do BSA aquatics training in the USVI. It is suggested that we figure out how to get him to an NCS aquatics section.

11. New Business –

- a. National/Regional News – the NER Area 6 Council Workshop will be held Mar 21 at Cecil College in North East MD. There will be a Council aquatics breakout session.
- b. Policy/other - Rush Kester and Alvin Fridie volunteered to co-lead NCAC's learn to swim efforts. Mike Meenehan related information about the BSA strategic partnership with USA Swimming Foundation on learn to swim programs.
- c. Jason Wesbrock will be going to NCS Aquatics in May.
- d. Jack Regan reached out to Belle Haven Marina to determine what resources they have to support scouting aquatics. Norman created an Aquatics Resources page for publishing this information.

12. Next Aquatics Committee Meeting – the next meeting will be Wednesday, June 10 at the Camp Snyder pool. This will be our annual family pool party and Mike Meenehan's last meeting as Aquatics Committee Chairman. Jason Wesbrock will be the next NCAC Aquatics Committee Chairman, effective at the September meeting.

13. Professional's Minute – Gary Carroll mentioned that some Aquatics Directors are still needed for GSR camps (CWBS too!). He stressed the importance of BSA Learn to Swim efforts when he related his near-drowning experience as a child.

