

**National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16 2013
Marriott Scout Service Center, Bethesda MD**

1. Opening:

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Aquatics Committee lead, welcomed everyone to the September quarterly meeting. The meeting was changed to September 16 to avoid conflicting with the NCAC Camping Committee meeting on Wednesday. Attendees included: Mike Meenehan, Gary Carroll, Carol Cass, Rush Kester, Carl Stout and Tom McKeever. The minutes of the June 13 2013 meeting were approved. A current committee roster was distributed along with the Aquatics Committee overview flyer. Carl Stout requested the Venturing logo be added to the flyer.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Sea Scouting – Todd Skiles Ship 100 got a lot of good press for their naming of their ship “Benjamin Chase” after two Sandy Hook Cub Scouts.
- b. Enterprise Risk Management – Tom McKeever mentioned the upcoming 3 October ERM meeting. There have been no recent changes to Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat guidelines.
- c. Leadership Training – Meets tomorrow. Joe Schwartz is the new Chairman.
- d. Venturing – Carol Cass mentioned there is an interest by the Montgomery District VOA in scuba training. The recent Powder Horn course had scuba and kayaking activities.
- e. Youth Advancement and Recognition – Alan Deter produced a summary of changes for the 2013 BSA Guide to Advancement. The GTA lists required counselor qualifications for Canoeing, Kayaking and Whitewater merit badges. There was a long discussion on how the Aquatics Committee can help ensure merit badge counselors have access to the specified level of training. It was decided that the Aquatics Committee would work with BSA Aquatics Instructors and/or ACA instructors to make the training available in NCAC. The training won't be “instructor certification” training but will provide instruction on the skills needed to teach/counsel each of the merit badges.
- f. Camping – The Aquatics Committee reports to the Camping Committee. It will meet on Wednesday.

3. Aquatics Web Page – Carol Cass is one of the few people working on transitioning information to the new NCAC website (www.ncacbsa.org). She has done a great job of moving Aquatics Committee information over but is having to redo a lot of work due to design decisions that had not been made. The Aquatics Committee has a lot of promotional material that points to the old, non-functioning link (www.boyscouts-ncac.org/aquatics). There isn't an equivalent “short label” capability on the new site yet. Gary mentioned the option of putting online registration up on the GSR website.

4. Reports on Recent events:

- a. Paddle Craft Safety (classroom and water sessions) was conducted on 29 June for 5 participants by Mike Meenehan at Camp Snyder.

- b. There were numerous aquatics activities at the National Jamboree from 8 – 24 July in West Virginia: water reality obstacle course, dragon boats, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding and scuba. Numerous NCAC volunteers staffed the scuba activity.
- c. Swimming and Water Rescue (classroom and water sessions) were held at Camp Snyder on 27 July for 4 people. The session was taught by Tom Ryan and Mike Meenehan.
- d. A Scuba open water certification class (and Scuba Diving Merit Badge session) was held at Camp Snyder and Fredericksburg quarry on 10/11 and 17/18 August. Carl Stout and Mike Meenehan instructed for 15 scouts and leaders.
- e. A scuba session was presented as part of Powder Horn training on 24 August. Carl Stout and Mike Meenehan presented to 18 participants.
- f. The annual ScubaJam Virginia was held at Lake Rawlings on 30 Aug – 2 Sept. Carl Stout and Mike Meenehan were among the 100+ participants and staff attending.
- g. Paddle Craft Safety (classroom and water sessions) was conducted on 7 Sept for 8 participants by Mike Meenehan at Camp Snyder.

5. Upcoming aquatics activities:

- a. There are no more Aquatics Supervision course (PCS/SWR) water sessions planned for this season. Until spring, only classroom sessions will be held. The next PCS/SWR classroom sessions are scheduled for 5 October and 23 November at Camp Snyder. (Gary – please order another 20 Aquatics Supervision books). Help is needed with instructing the courses.
- b. An Outdoor Expo is being held at Camp Snyder on 19 October. No more information about the activity is available.
- c. The big fall training event is the NCAC Cub Scout Leader Pow Wow on 16 November at Annandale High School. The Aquatics Committee is presenting Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat Training (one combined morning and one combined afternoon session). We will also have a display in the midway all day. **Help is needed with the SSD/SA classes and manning the midway display. Please let Mike Meenehan know if you are available to help out (all material/training is provided!).**

6. Goshen Scout Reservation Aquatics

- a. Mike Meenehan met with the GSR Aquatics Directors on 19 June to discuss aquatics support for them. A common request was for maintenance materials for the waterfront (eg., water seal for docks, canoe patching material, etc.) Gary mentioned that all those supplies are available to the waterfront staff through their normal camp supply channels during the summer. So ADs need to request the materials from camp.
- b. Dave Condon researched and purchased 2 used ski boats this year for NCAC/GSR. (thanks Dave!) The boats were heavily used but weren't necessarily properly cared for. Dave is working on maintenance procedures. **Gary is looking for mature adult leaders to volunteer to be ski boat operators for next summer. He would house and feed them at Camp Post in a cabin. Leaders could rotate through those positions for parts of the summer. We will be reaching out to the Sea Scouts for help with this.**
- c. Water trampolines at Camps Ross and PMI were a great hit this summer. No injuries were reported from them. 2014 GSR promotional materials state they will be at all camps next summer.

7. Camp Snyder Aquatics

- a. We conducted numerous aquatics training courses at Camp Snyder this summer. The facilities (pool and lakes) are great.
- b. The recent scuba certification/merit badge course had some participant behavior issues that were dealt with. We need to be sure to leave the facilities better than we find them.
- c. There are new procedures to use Silver Lake for canoe training. We must now coordinate with the Prince William County Chief Park Ranger, Purvis L. Dawson. Two releases, equipment and liability, are needed.
- d. The Old Town canoes used for PCS training need some work:
 - i. A seat needs to be replaced.
 - ii. All the ropes securing the canoes to the trailer need replacing.
 - iii. The canoe trailer is not registered or licensed (Gary suggested working with Dave C on this).

8. Camp Airy Aquatics

- a. Camp Airy was held August 13-17.
- b. Aquatics plans were reviewed by the Aquatics Committee. Mike Yankaskas was the Aquatics Director.

9. New Business

- a. National news
 - i. There is a 2013 edition of Aquatics Supervision. So now there are 3 versions: 2009, 2011 and 2013. The original 2009 version has 309 pages. The 2011 version updated the tour plan and medical policy portions but kept the page numbering the same. The 2013 version is 322 pages. Updates include changing "PFD" to "lifejacket". The Powerpoint slide numbers now do not match the page references. The National Aquatics Task Force says a new Powerpoint presentation will be available in November.
 - ii. The next National Aquatics Task Force meeting will be in Dallas on 2-3 November.
 - iii. An NCAC scouter was upset about the Northern Tier swim classification test procedure. Specifically, qualifications required to "sign off" on the swim test. He didn't see why former BSA Lifeguards were not qualified. I put him in contact with NT management to discuss/resolve.

10. Next Aquatics Committee Meeting – Wednesday, December 18 2013. Fairfax VA.

11. Professional's Minute – Gary Carroll expressed appreciation to the Aquatics Committee for assistance with camp aquatics this past summer.