

National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
December 15 2010
American Legion Post 177, Fairfax Virginia

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Committee Chairman, welcomed attendees to the annual NCAC Aquatics Committee holiday meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves: Mike Meenehan, Dan Ross, Carol Cass, Mike Fijalka, Jack Regan, Bill Hurst, Tom Ballew, Julia Farr and Mike Engiles. Dan Ross was standing in for the Committee's Professional Advisor. Carol Cass, committee webmaster, and Bill Hurst, National Health and Safety Committee Chairman, were welcomed to their first meeting.

An updated membership roster was distributed. Meeting minutes from the September 15 2010 Aquatics Committee meeting were approved.

NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

Sea Scouts – Skipper Tom Ballew announced the upcoming 8 January 2011 Sea Scout Wardroom Awards Dinner. His annual Sea Scout Lifeguard Course [both BSA Lifeguard certification & American Red Cross Pool / Waterfront Lifeguard certification] class would be 17 – 22 July 2011 at Solomon's Island Recreation Center.

High Adventure Committee – Lee Hutchins forwarded the recent High Adventure Committee minutes. There are plenty of spaces available for the NCAC-led Florida Sea Base provisional Sea Exploring trip. There is a new BSA national high adventure promotion DVD available.

Health and Safety – There has been a change in leadership of the H&S committee. We are not sure who the new chairman is.

Leadership Development Committee – Julia Farr, LDC Chairman, reported on upcoming training events. Of note are Trainer's EDGE (Jan 29) and University of Scouting (Feb 26).

Carol Cass was given kudos for the excellent Aquatics Committee web page support she has given.

The classroom portions of the Aquatics Supervision courses (Swimming and Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safety) were taught by Mike Meenehan at the Aquia District training event on October 23. This is an example of how we want to make the Aquatics Supervision training available to leaders at district training events. Other NCAC Districts are encouraged to schedule Aquatics Supervision courses at their training events. The Aquatics Committee will ensure that qualified trainers are available to present the training.

The 2010 BSA National Aquatics Workshop was held at the Florida Sea Base on Nov 3 – 7. Mike Meenehan and Bob Tallent from NCAC attended. The Workshop is held every two years as an outreach effort of the BSA National Aquatics Task Force. 11 pages of notes on topics covered were distributed by Mike Meenehan. Contact him if you want a copy. Of note is that the BSA scuba policy for well controlled asthma is being reevaluated.

Bob Brandel presented the Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training at the Nov 20 NCAC Pow Wow.

Due to the large investment needed to make the Camp Snyder flatbed trailer useable for canoe carrying that plan was abandoned. Camp Snyder now has the unused 8 canoe trailer with 6 Old Town canoes from Goshen Scout Reservation. The trailer needs to be registered/licensed. An Aquatics Committee goal should be to develop the policy and procedures to make canoes available for rental to scout units and to present canoe training (Paddle Craft Safety, Canoeing merit badge, etc.) using Silver Lake. If you would like to help with the Canoe Rental/Training Working Group, please contact Mike Meenehan.

The upcoming 2011 NCAC aquatics activities were discussed. A flyer was distributed to attendees, is available on the web page (thanks Carol!), was available at Pow Wow, and was given to District Executives. We hope to have a midway display at the Commissioner College on Jan 22 and at the NCAC annual Program Planning conference on Feb 5. The next scheduled Paddle Craft Safety/Swimming and Water Rescue classes are Feb 12 at the Colonial District training event. University of Scouting will be Feb 26. Help is needed with midway display manning. Isabel Mack and Chuck Trude will teach a Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat course. Mike Meenehan will present Scuba and BSA Aquatics Overview courses. It was suggested that Aquatics Supervision courses should be presented during University of Scouting. We will try to implement that next year.

Everyone was reminded that the PADI Dive to Adventure Scholarship forms are available on the NCAC website (under Forms & Documents). The deadline for submission is Dec 31.

The first NCAC-presented BSA Lifeguard course is scheduled for June 2011 at Camp Snyder. The course will include both BSA and American Red Cross basic lifeguard certifications. Anyone interested in attending or helping with the course should contact Mike Meenehan.

The recently introduced BSA National Outdoor Badge for aquatics was briefly discussed. Award information can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Youth/Awards/NOA.aspx>

A brief overview of the NCAC Aquatics Committee mission was given in preparation for a discussion of committee goals. Sample objectives from the BSA National Aquatics Task Force were reviewed. We should have goals/objectives that get reviewed annually. If you have ideas for suggested Aquatics Committee goals, please contact Mike Meenehan.

As a result of an inquiry from a District Merit Badge Coordinator there was a discussion on required qualifications for aquatics merit badge counselors. The committee decided that no other certifications should be required for aquatics merit badge counselors other than the qualifications listed in specific merit badge books (e.g., canoeing merit badge). The committee emphasized that aquatics merit badge activities might include situations where Safe Swim Defense or Safety Afloat guidelines might apply, but that it wasn't appropriate to mandate those training courses as a condition of being a merit badge counselor.

Eric Steele, the outgoing NCAC Aquatics Committee BSA Professional Advisor, sent the following note that was read for the Professional's minute:

"Council Aquatics Committee:

It has my pleasure to have served as your advisor through the last few years. I have not a doubt in my mind, that you are one of the finest Aquatics committees in the nation and that you will continue to bring innovative and traditional programs to the youth of the National Capital Area Council. I want to wish each of you the best, and hopefully over time, I'll be able to continue to get the news of the great things you are offering our youth.

Stay wet, Dive Deep and remember to Reach, Throw, Row and Go!!!

Eric R. Steele"

Dan Ross, NCAC Director Asset Management, announced that Tim Rupert, Sr. District Executive Occoquan District, has been selected as the Camp William B. Snyder Program Director and will be the new BSA Professional Advisor for the Aquatics Committee.

The next NCAC Aquatics Committee meeting will be on March 16, 2011. The location is to be determined.