

**National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes
September 15 2014
Marriott Scout Service Center, Bethesda MD**

1. Opening:

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Aquatics Committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees included Mike Meenehan, Gary Carroll, Rush Kester, Carol Cass and Jason Wesbrock. Carl Stout and Norman Laythe dialed into the meeting. Jason Wesbrock was welcomed to his first NCAC Aquatics Committee meeting. Jason just joined us from Alaska. The minutes of the June 11 2014 meeting were approved. A quick review of the mission/purpose of the NCAC Aquatics Committee was done based on the AC Info flyer. An updated committee roster was distributed.

2. NCAC Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. Sea Scouting – Tom Ballew was not present because he was at a Ship meeting.
- b. High Adventure – No report.
- c. Venturing – Carol Cass mentioned the successfully completed PowderHorn training. Several aquatics programs were presented, including Scuba.
- d. Youth Advancement and Recognition – The YAR has been successfully promoting our Canoe Merit Badge Counselor training sessions. They recently distributed a list of the 3,934 merit badge counselors in NCAC showing the YPT status of each.
- e. Enterprise Risk Management – No report.
- f. Camping – The next meeting is Wednesday. Will review the outstanding attendance numbers for this summer's camps.

3. Aquatics Web Page – Carol Cass and Norman Laythe are doing a great job with the web page (www.ncacbsa.org/aquatics).

4. Recent Events – A full summer of aquatics activities and training was held.

- a. We finished the BSA Lifeguard course for 4 participants on June 14-15 @ Camp Snyder. This was a dual American Red Cross/BSA Lifeguard course.
- b. The Swimming and Water Rescue course on June 28 had 2 participants.
- c. The Paddle Craft Safety course on July 26 had 4 participants. We extended the training to include Canoeing MB counselor training. Rick Ferry and his son helped with instruction.
- d. A PADI Open Water Diver course was started on July 27 at Camp Snyder. The classroom and pool sessions were held on August 9-10 at Camp Snyder. The open water training dives were completed at the Fredericksburg quarry on August 16-17. A Scuba Diving Merit Badge counseling session was held on August 17. 10 youth and adults participated in the class.
- e. On August 23 we supported the Scuba activity at the 2014 PowderHorn training. Carl Stout divemastered for the event.
- f. The fifth annual ScubaJam Virginia was conducted over Labor Day weekend on August 29- September 1. Participation was down this year but NCAC still had the largest number of participants of any Council. Norman Laythe is our NCAC SJ contact. We contacted the NCAC Program Department and were able to obtain copies

of all NCAC unit FSB applications. Those attending scuba programs will be contacted about future ScubaJam participation.

- g. The Swimming and Water Rescue course on September 6 had 4 participants. Camp Snyder staff asked us to move that session up in the calendar so it occurs before Labor Day next year (to save on pool chemical costs).

5. Upcoming 2014-15 Aquatics Activities

- a. On October 4 we have a Paddle Craft Safety / Canoeing MBC training session at Camp Snyder. Jason Wesbrock will lead the session with Mike Meenehan's assistance.
- b. The NCAC Cub Leader Pow Wow will be held on November 15. The usual aquatics-related activities will be supported:
 - Midway display (Mike Meenehan)
 - SSD/SA class (2 sessions) – before & after lunch (Jason Wesbrock)Additional help would be greatly appreciated.

6. 2014-2015 Calendar Changes

Several changes have been made to scheduled activities:

- CPR PRO/First Aid trainings has been moved from 2 May 15 to 19 September 15. Since we had no takers for this course this year, perhaps some will be looking for this training after their BSA LG training next summer. We should promote this opportunity to Aquatics Directors next year.
- The PADI Open Water Diver course has been moved from August 8-9 Aug 15-16 to August 15-16 and Aug 22-23. This is necessary since the lead instructor will be helping with the NOAC scuba activity Aug 3-8.
- Per Camp Snyder's request, the Swimming and Water Rescue course has been moved from 12 Sept to 29 Aug 15.

Changing activity dates after they have been published is not desirable. But due to the variety of circumstances the moves have to be made. Changes need to be for Program launch materials (POC Don Durbin), NCAC Calendar (POC Carol Cass), Aquatics web page (POC Carol Cass), Promotional handouts (POC Mike Meenehan)

7. Goshen Scout Reservation Aquatics –

Pre-camp visits were held with the GSR Aquatics Directors on June 18. A post-camp session was held with them on August 1. One of the Aquatics Directors needed a waiver since he wasn't yet 21 years old. The YAR committee expressed concern about a less than 21 year-old functioning as a merit badge counselor. It was explained to them that the waiver addressed that issue.

I visited the Goshen swimming hole for the first time on August 1. Gary and I discussed that a sign listing the Safe Swim Defense points would be a good addition to the area.

Feedback from the initial motorboat drivers was reviewed. Most of the issues were based on poor communications between the boat drivers and the GSR staff. Gary is going to require that future boat drivers have taken Power Boat Squadron training before driving the boats. This summer there were 2 volunteers for the first week (Dan Palenscar and Bill Schoomaker). Mark Grapin volunteered for a week and Mychal Tanullow also drove the boats. Only one motorboat was used at a time leaving the other to be used as a reserve.

Several of the Aquatics Directors and boat drivers mentioned problems with docking the boats at the swimming docks. Boating docks are needed.

The OA Fall Fellowship is being held at GSR on 19-21 September with waterfront activities being planned. We furnished the organizers with a roster of all NCAC BSA lifeguards (app. 150) and current BSA Aquatics Instructors for potential staffing. Kyle Griffie and Tom Warner were the acting Aquatics Directors for the event.

8. Camp Snyder Aquatics

Camp Snyder hired their Aquatics Director at NCS in Baltimore in June. Reggie Cahoon is resigning from his Camp Snyder Director job as of Oct 3 2014. 2015 activity dates need to be coordinated with Camp Snyder (completed on 9/17/14).

9. Camp Airy Aquatics

Camp Airy had its usual staff of returning veterans. The only aquatics support provided was to review draft EAPs. The suggested changes were made by the AD.

10. New Business

- The biennial National BSA Aquatics Workshop is being held at the Florida Sea Base on 22-26 October. See <http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/Aquatics.aspx> for registration info.
- The recent Aquatics e-newsletter listed the new policy for aquatics play structures. PHAs must be done for them. Our only aquatics play structures are the slides at Snyder and the water trampolines at Camps Ross and PMI.
- The Northeast Region Area 6 Key Leadership Forum is being held on 1 Nov. Register at: <http://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x355318c05>
- Several boats were offered for donation to NCAC. Evaluating/checking out the boats is a challenge. Anyone who wants to assist with this effort please let Mike Meenehan know.
- BSA Lifeguard course – The price for our ARC/BSA lifeguard course is \$120 per person. With the changes in Red Cross expenses, the course fee is more than required for our expenses. The Aquatics Committee decided to keep the course fee the same and look at putting the extra revenue towards NCAC aquatics expenses.
- John Janke took a BSA Lifeguard course this summer at camp. He was not able to complete the supervised lifeguarding requirements. He was put in touch with Camp Airy and was able to volunteer as a lifeguard and complete those requirements.
- New Cub Scout aquatics requirements – In 2015 the Cub Scout program is changing. One of the changes is in the aquatics elective for Bears. They will need to use canoes and/or rowboats. This is currently restricted by Safety Afloat policy. This will be discussed at the BSA Aquatics Workshop. The NCAC Aquatics Committee decided to pursue offering this advancement opportunity next year at the Camp Snyder waterfront.

11. Next Aquatics Committee Meeting

The next quarterly Aquatics Committee meeting will be our annual Holiday meeting on Wednesday, December 17 at the Fairfax American Legion Post.

12. Professional's Minute

Gary Carroll reminisced about his fun times on the lake. He also expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the volunteers of the NCAC Aquatics Committee.