



NCSP

NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

25 Years!

March 2004

From the Commodore

Well, as I look out the window at the heavy snow coming down, I hope this is the last cold, snowy day of the season... Although, that snow brings more water....

It's already starting to get a little warmer and the rivers are actually flowing instead of sitting there as a solid mass. This is the time that the NCSP members decide it's time to get into stinky gear go into the freezing cold Delaware River for.....Training Weekend!

Training weekend is scheduled for April 24th and 25th, Hal Hughes our training coordinator and his committee have been busy creating a schedule of activities to enhance your skills and improve the NCSP UDC overall response to river challenges. Please make sure you're geared up to get wet that weekend. Attached please find all the details you should need.

As I am sure some of you are already aware, the economic climate has changed and the NPS has been forced to cut staff further on the Upper Delaware. This means that our continued commitment to this resource is more valuable than ever. Please, as a current member, make an effort to recruit a new member and bring them to training weekend.

This is also the kickoff weekend for patrols. Official patrols will start the following weekend. Please advise me if you will be patrolling as I notify the NPS of the number of rescuers signed up for any given weekend. I can be contacted as late as the Friday morning before a patrol weekend by email or by Thursday evening if you prefer telephone. If you have other questions please feel free to contact me directly. Let's make this a safe and enjoyable training weekend for all.

Joel

The elected officers for 2004 are:

Commodore-Joel Duffy

Vice-Commodore-Mike Wilk

Secretary-Ed Jedele

Treasurer-Greg Temple

From the Vice Commodore

I hope to see everyone out for training weekend this year. Perhaps if we're lucky, we can have 2 full days without rain. This will be my 5th training weekend and would like to enjoy one rain-free. Hal, as usual has put together a great program.

On a personal note, many of my friends in NCSP are aware that my family suffered a loss over the Christmas holiday. My mother, after a long illness passed away. It was a difficult time for my family, and I was quite surprised and touched by the level of sympathy and support I received from many of the members of NCSP. Thank you to my fellow Board members for the floral arrangement and the many sympathy cards received from the members and the NPS. I am glad to call my fellow members of NCSP good friends.

Mike

Christmas Day 2003???



So, what do the Duffy's do on a quiet Christmas Afternoon? Well of course, it's off to the local broken dam to make things just a **little** more exciting.

From the Training Committee

Time is going by very quickly, it seems like we were just together at the Fall Dinner. But before you know it all this snow will be gone and April will be here and that means Training Weekend.

Once again we will be camping at KC's Luke's Landing in Barryville thanks to our generous hosts Ruth and Dave Jones. Check-in will start Friday evening, April 23, 2004 at 1600 hrs (4:00 PM) and Training will run until Sunday afternoon April 25, 2004 at 1430 hrs (2:30 PM). Details on the Saturday dinner will be provided separately.

We reviewed all of the comments you made last year and are making some changes. This year some stations will be longer than others so that there will be plenty of practice time. And we are offering even more choices.

Please bring all the river gear you usually paddle with along with your boat. We will have "on the water" sessions available on Sunday.

This year's session topics include Basic Rope Rescue, Strainer Self Rescue, Strainer Victim Rescue, Tethered Swimmer, Boat Unpinning, a Patrol Procedures workshop, a Training Roundtable discussion, Boat Based Rescue, Technical Rope Systems, and Advanced Scenario/team building exercises.

We hope all members plan to attend and if you bring a new member we are sure to have some extra gear available for practice.

See you There!

The Training Committee

Important, Please Read

Membership dues must be paid upon sign-in for training weekend or you will **not** be permitted to camp, or participate in training weekend activities. Dues remain the same; \$15 per individual or \$30 per family.

Spring Dinner

It is that time of year again. We stand around all day in the cold, in wetsuits, listening to a bunch of similarly clad people drone on... who then have the gall tell US to get in that freezing cold river. THEN we stand around soggy, freezing our toes off, longing for a hot shower and... A nice, hot dinner! Yes, the spring dinner is waiting for you! On Saturday, April 24th at 6:30 we will have a buffet at the Carriage House in Barryville (\$25 per person) and the selection will include Mesclun Salad, fresh baked bread, Lemon Pepper Chicken, Beef Stroganoff, Lasagna rolls, herb-roasted red potatoes, and caramelized carrots. Also included will be soft drinks, tea, coffee (there will be a cash bar), topped off at the end with German Apple Strudel. Makes the mouth water!!! Just imagine it after a long day of dragging yourself over slimy rocks! Time to make your reservation. Plan on paying for dinner as you check in for training weekend. Please contact Joel Duffy (ncspcommodore@rivergod.com or 860-228-5127) to reserve your spot. We look forward to seeing you!

Megan Duffy

Contact Us

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Treasurer:
Greg Temple
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Training:
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NCSP Member Benefits

Rescue Gear for Active Members

Have you completed at least 4 patrol days last year? If you have.... a new benefit is that you can purchase **Rescue** gear from NRS at a significant discount. If you have not completed 4 patrol days last year, you can become eligible as soon as you have completed your minimum requirement for this year. Please note, this is specifically for rescue gear that will be primarily used on NCSP patrols. Typical gear would be, Throw Bags, Rope, Carabineers, Pulleys, First-Aid Kits, gloves, helmets, Rescue PFD's, booties, Wetsuits, and similar items.

This benefit is not for things like clothing or other gear not associated with a typical patrol. If you have a question regarding a specific item please contact me directly. At this time all purchases will have to be routed through me, I may designate another contact later in the season. I expect to have a catalog available training weekend if you are interested.

The only exception to this rule is that each new member will have the opportunity to purchase one new Throw Bag to start the season. Several at \$30 each will be available for New Members only during training weekend.

Joel

25th Anniversary Picnic

25th Anniversary NCSP Picnic

In celebration of 25 years of service, we are giving a picnic for all present and former NCSP and NPS folks on Saturday May 29 at the Minisink Battleground pavilion at 6pm. Lots of food, burgers, hotdogs, salads, etc. and best of all it is **free**.

Bring your own beverages...and we are asking for volunteers to bring desserts!

If you plan to attend (and/or can help), contact Mary K at 302-234-0640 or email canoerr@aol.com.

Oh yes; also live music and you are encouraged to invite anyone who was active in our early years. Come and celebrate 25 yrs of NCSP and NPS service.

National Park Woes

This year, like most in the past, the National Park's Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is facing yet another round of budget cuts and loss of personnel. The NPS Upper Delaware has not seen a budgetary increase since its formation 25 years ago, and now faces mandatory cuts of over 15% of operating funds. This season will see one less enforcement ranger and almost all of the interpretive staff not returning, Ranger Jackie is not being replaced. Sandy Schultz, NPS asst. Superintendent has also told me that it is unlikely that they will be able to open the Zane Grey Museum this year due to the staff reductions. The budget cuts may also result in many of the kiosks not being staffed.

What does this mean for us in the NCSP? It means we are an increasingly important part of safety on this river. Now, more than in the past, our presence is needed. Those who may not have patrolled much in the past few seasons may want to think about rejoining the effort. Rangers will be sparse and response times longer, radios will still be old and may not work too well. I am also forming a grassroots group to lobby on behalf of the Park Service for increased funding. By law the park service cannot lobby for funds on its own behalf. If you would like further information please contact me; Bill Walters (riverratbilly@yahoo.com)

Thank You

Thank-you once again to Dave and Ruth at Kitatinny Canoes, the ownership and staff at Cedar Rapids, to Megan Duffy for the dinner arrangements and to the training committee staff, and to those who have made newsletter contributions.

Marketing Committee

The new **NCSP** Hats will be available along with carabineers, patches, stickers, and other items during training weekend. The T-shirts are \$15 each. Order your normal size, they do not shrink much. Sizes are Med., Lg., X-Lg., and 2XLg... We are trying to have several **NCSP** Poly shirts available; price has not been determined as of this printing.

Note

Due to a computer failure, your Commodore, Joel Duffy, has put this newsletter together. All omissions, errors, and other changes are mine. Ed's computer should be 100% before the next newsletter is due (Thank Goodness!).

National Canoe Safety Patrol Membership Application 2004

Upper Delaware River Chapter

Commodore-Joel Duffy NCSPCommodore@Rivergod.com 860-228-5127
Vice-Commodore-Mike Wilk NCSPViceCommodore@Rivergod.com 570-629-8608
Secretary-Ed Jedele NCSPSecretary@Rivergod.com 973-448-1492
Treasurer-Greg Temple NCSPTreasurer@Rivergod.com 609-896-2116



What is the National Canoe Safety Patrol?

The NCSP was founded more than 25 yrs. ago for the purpose of encouraging and promoting boating safety, including but not limited to the following:

To assist river management agencies, race organizers and other safety and rescue organizations by offering river rescue training orientation to their personnel.

To provide a shore and boat based safety presence in cooperation with river management agencies, race organizers and other safety and rescue organizations.

To provide rescue and recovery assistance upon request of, and in cooperation with, river management agencies and other safety and rescue organizations.

Where does this take place?

Mostly on the Upper Delaware River between Narrowsburg and Port Jervis though the NCSP is chartered to serve wherever invited by race or event organizers or river management agencies.

How do I get this "training"?

Formal training is the last weekend of the month every April, on the Upper Delaware, with on the job training ongoing during the paddling season.

How much does it cost?

Training is free to active members with a nominal dues of \$15 per year single membership, \$30 family.

What is my obligation after joining?

A minimum of 4 days of service, on weekends between May 1st and July 4th.

Do I need a certain kind of boat?

Most members paddle whitewater canoes or kayaks, though a wide range of crafts are used and all are welcome.

Can I join at any time during the year?

Yes, but it is essential to attend the formal training weekend at the earliest opportunity.

What do I learn at the formal training weekend?

Many and varied topics including in-water mobility, boat and shore rescue, throw bag techniques, boat unpinning, foot entrapment rescues and more.

Do I have to be an "expert" paddler to join?

While some paddling experience is desired, some members are instructors and will be happy to assist in improving paddling skills.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____

STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

PADDLING EXPERIENCE Beg. Int. Adv.

OWN OR HAVE USE OF A BOAT? Y N

Send Dues to:

NCSP Dues C/O
Greg Temple
6 Merion Place
Lawrenceville, N.J.
08684



Training weekend in-water foot entrapment drill