



NCSP NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

27 Years on the River

September 2006 - Fall Edition

From The Commodore

Another year of patrol has rolled past us once again. I was glad to see so many new faces on the river this year. Once again we have provided outstanding service to Upper Delaware River and once again members have performed outstanding service to the United Nations International Schools trip, Delaware, and Lehigh Sojourns. Unfortunately, due to personal demands and career changes, I have not spent as many hours on the river as I would have liked. For people who may not have heard, I closed my photography business and have returned to teaching high school social studies. After Evelyn Jr's birth last September and our second baby due this January, working 70 hours a week seemed unreasonable. Hopefully, having my summers off will allow me to dedicate more time to both my family and to the NCSP.

Yet again, we saw major flooding on the Delaware, giving those who came up on Fourth of July weekend some fantastic views of the river's power. I would like to personally thank those daring individuals that came to the river that weekend; our role was greatly needed and appreciated by the Park Service. During that weekend, the NPS started to use an Incident Command system of communication on the radio. This really reinforces the importance of Megan's article. I hope that you can all take the time to complete the online course.

Ken and Dick have put together another great fall dinner and I really hope you can all make it. Remember, you need to go to the dinner to pick up your incentive gifts, if you're entitled. We are implementing some new changes to the patrol schedule, so please see the article to review the new policies. The website committee would like some membership input, as they are greatly understaffed and overworked. I am trying to put together a public safety section with the basics of boating safety. I need help in putting together a basic outline of what we want to cover and putting the whole thing together. I'm going to present this in the form of "we're going to the upper Delaware

this weekend, what should we know". If you have any ideas or want to help, let me know!!!! I look forward to continuing my work with the NCSP and working with all of you on the River.

Bill Walters
Commodore

From the Secretary

As some of you may know, my season, and by extension Megan's, was shortened considerably. I broke a finger at Shohola rapids Memorial Day Weekend. The second time in a decade that Shohola has given me trouble. It sounds minor in an article, but see the photo below. It was a difficult break, right at the knuckle. Donna Ford splinted me back together on the scene, enough for me to "paddle" to the South District Office, where I reported my injury, and filled out paperwork. Then it was off to the Hospital for x-rays, and an initial splinting. After I went home I had to continue treatment locally. All this time I was in contact with Mary Ann Price with the NPS, who was very helpful during this process, walking me through forms, handling billing issues and basically making sure I didn't have an insurance nightmare on my hands.

I am feeling much better now, although not perfect yet, I am still in the process of strengthening my hand.

Lessons:

1. Don't get injured!
2. IF you must... REPORT injuries to NPS immediately! Everything should fall into place if you follow this rule. Plan on filling out lots of paperwork...



Joel Duffy
Secretary

NCSP Contact Information

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2007 Officer Nominations

The nominating committee has suggested the following slate of officers for the 2007 season.

Commodore – Bill Walters
Vice Commodore – DJ Branch
Treasurer - Donna Ford
Secretary – Joel Duffy

Elections will be held at the Fall Dinner.
Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Post Season Patrols

Many have noted to the board of directors that they see a need for September and October patrols. The board has decided to extend the patrol season to October 27, 2006; however, there will be some major operational changes after Labor Day weekend.

- 1) Camping will be still be available at Kittitanney Barryville Campsite, site 511, unless KC moves us. As always, please check in at the main office.
- 2) Members wanting to patrol Saturday, Sunday or the entire weekend must contact the commodore or vice-commodore via email or phone by no later than Thursday at 4:00pm so we can make the arrangements with the NPS. If emailing, a return email will be sent to

confirm the assignment. If you do not contact the commodore or vice commodore, you will not receive credit for the patrol and may not have a NPS radio available to you. We really need to follow this procedure so NPS can be prepared.

- 3) Meeting locations and times:
 - a. For a Luke's Landing to NPS south district office, Staircase to Sparrowbush/Matamoras, or TMR to Zane Grey Patrol, we will meet at the NPS south district office at 9:00am. The patrollers can then receive radios and sign in with the NPS.
 - b. For a Skinners Falls patrol, Please contact Bill Walters by phone ahead as of publication date.
- 4) Patrols after Labor Day will count towards NPS and NCSP credit; however, they will not be calculated into the NCSP incentive gift rankings.

If you need directions to the above locations, or have additional comments or problems please contact Bill Walters directly.

Fall Dinner

FROM THE DINNER COMMITTEE

The National Canoe Safety Patrol fall dinner will take place Saturday, October 21st from 3-6pm at the Marblehead Grill and Chowder House located at 4101 William Penn Highway in Easton PA.

(One mile East of Route 33)

The cost will be \$25.00 per person including tax and gratuities.

Please RSVP As soon as possible to Ken Bailey at ncspvicecommodore@rivergod.com as to name and number attending.

Pay Greg Temple, Treasurer upon your arrival.

Ken Bailey

Training Weekend 2007 – Drill Your Skills

It is never too early to mark the dates down in your calendar – next year's training weekend is going to be April 27-29, 2007. We had lots of positive feedback but we do realize some concerns stemmed from having larger than expected classes. We are trying to come up with a different schedule and will do our best to make sure classes are smaller next year. Thank you for all

your feedback. We will also be revising our feedback forms to get even more details so we can keep making improvements.

However, let's frame this weekend in a new way. For our newer members, especially those who may be new to river rescue work, it should definitely be seen as "training." For our veteran members I'd like you to look at this as a "DRILL" weekend. I hope you learn something and reflect on how you have been doing your rescues. But when someone comes to a "training" they expect to learn something "new." The truth of the matter is that most of what we do in the NCSP are tried-and-true techniques, and can seem mundane when you've been doing it for a while. However, as Joel and I now have been working with our local volunteer fire department for the past 8 months, I am seeing the value of the using the term "drill". Every responsible rescue organization does drills, even when they do the "real thing" all the time. So, why do you need to come to training weekend every year (other than the obvious answer, "because you have to")?

- It gives us a chance to review our rescue skills. This is ESPECIALLY true for the skills we rarely use. Joel and I have been patrolling for 13 years and STILL have never had to deal with a true foot entrapment. I hope we never do, but I want to practice that skill each and every year – when I need it, it needs to be fresh in my mind!!!
- We remind ourselves WHY we do things the way we do. Just why, exactly, do we NEVER tie a rope to ourselves? Why do we keep our patrol members together so they can maintain some form of communication? Sometimes it can seem obvious, but hearing the gospel year after year will help keep us all safer, rather than starting to fall into UNSAFE habits.
- We get to meet our newest members and hopefully start to build a relationship with them since we will probably be working with them over the next season (hopefully longer!). Incorporating new members is crucial to the future vitality of the NCSP and training weekend is where it starts.
- We have the opportunity to work with fellow veteran members with whom we may never actually patrol during the

season. Hopefully training weekend will give you the chance to get to know some other members better and maybe go on a patrol with them in the future.

- Practice is ALWAYS a good thing. Let me say that again – Practice is Good! You might even work on ways to improve your own personal best on a skill. And training weekend gives you the chance to practice where you don't have to worry about a real victim; where you can step back and say "time out, I didn't like the way that was going, I want to try that again." Real life doesn't give you that opportunity.

So, see this as an opportunity to "Drill Your Skills", shake out the cobwebs that might have formed over the winter and get you ready to start a new season with a refreshed skill set!

Looking forward to seeing you at the fall dinner.

Megan Duffy,
Training Director

Butler's Rift Access

A scene of more than one drowning, Butler's Rift is remote, lengthy, and challenging to cover. It therefore merits more attention from a safety perspective. Recent NCSP patrols have put in at the Mongaup access and staged along Butler's until taking out at Sparrowbush/Fireman's Beach or Kittatinny Matamoras access.

Due to its remote location one concern is how to evacuate from and/or bring emergency resources to Butler's Rift.

Consider the Following:

Access along Butler's Rift: A canal path runs along Butler's on the New York side about 15-20 feet above the river. This allows a patrol to traverse the length of the rapids and /or get persons off the river.

Access to NY Route 97: The old canal and path can be followed upstream to a dirt access road that connects to Route 97. At Route 97 there is a yellow gate to prevent vehicular traffic. Parking is not permitted except for emergency vehicles. The road provides access in case of an emergency.

Any patrols in the area should take the time to become familiar with the paths and access road described-before an emergency.

Ken Bailey/Dick Rhodes

Incident Command – Want to Learn More?

Apparently on patrol this summer, some of our members had the opportunity to be involved peripherally in a situation where the Incident Command System was used. This is the command structure we have been using at Training Weekend for several years, so you should already have some familiarity with many of the terms.

The suggestion has been made to encourage NCSP members to learn more about the Incident Command System (or, more accurately, NIMS: National Incident Management System). There is an interactive course online that is available through FEMA which is actually very helpful that you may be interested in completing. Our Board of Directors and training staff have voluntarily taken this course and all have found it helpful, especially when a few of them found themselves in a real-life incident.

Just to go a bit into the logic behind NIMS, it is meant to help communication, allocation of resources, and decision-making for action during any kind of incident. The “incident” can be relatively small and involve only one agency (such as our training weekend) or can involve two or more agencies during a wide-ranging crisis. This way, theoretically, you don’t have three separate

agencies approaching a problem three different ways and possibly interfering with each other, or worse, putting each other in harm’s way. In the case of the NCSP, there might be an issue where we need to work with NPS, the Barryville Fire Department, and the State Police in some kind of search and rescue operation. For our purposes, we most likely will be following the direction of NPS personnel, but it would be helpful to know that when we hear a request is coming from the Operations Chief or the Incident Commander we know what that means.

If you would like to take the course, go to www.training.fema.gov. The two courses that will be the most helpful to you are IS-100 (introduction to incident command system) and IS-700 (introduction to NIMS). I suggest you take the IS-100 first. In the first paragraph on that home page, click on the link [IS Course List](#). Scroll down to click Option #1 for the interactive course and take it from there! Enjoy!

Articles and Photos

Do you have a favorite “war story”, a technique that you accidentally found that works, suggestions on techniques that we train on? We are always looking for articles and Photos; please submit directly to newsletter@rivergod.com. As always, the NCSP may or may not publish a contribution.

New Membership Information and Initial Application

The NCSP was founded in 1978 for the purpose of encouraging and promoting boating safety, including, but not limited to:

- 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.

Most rescue patrols are on the Delaware River between Narrowsburg and Port Jervis. Each member is obligated to provide a minimum of 4 full days of service on the river each season.

Interested in Joining or have further questions? Please contact one of the officers on the front page of this newsletter and/or attend training weekend. You may join and pay dues on arrival. If you have missed training and plan on attending the first available training, usually the last *full* weekend in April. Please mail dues of \$20 per individual for \$40 per family to: Treasurer, Greg Temple, 6 Merion Place, Lawrenceville, NJ, 08684, please include the following information.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Note, you will be required to sign a waiver prior to any patrols, *and* you must have the use of a canoe or kayak.