



NCSP

NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

July 2008

From the Commodore

I hope all of you are enjoying our great summer, even with the low river levels. I see Richard is doing a great job of managing our weekend patrols, I can't thank him enough! In a continuation of my articles on river rescue mind sets, I would like us all to begin to think of the concept of Situational Awareness and how it relates to our mission.

Situational Awareness:

Many of us are prepared and practice hard to be ready when the time comes to use our skills. When it happens, our adrenalin is up; we are ready to go and rescue. In many cases, the most experienced of us will jump in first. We become focused on our victim and want to do what ever we can to get them to safety. This is the time we get tunnel vision; we are no longer looking at the whole scene. Here are just a few things we must deal with:

- Assess the scene; get as much of the whole picture you can.
- Our safety must come first; is this going to put me or my team at unacceptable risk?
- Set upstream and downstream safety; people will paddle into your rescue!
- What hazards are around? Anticipate how the situation may change.
- Should we dispatch EMS? It may take some time to get them to the scene.
- What are our possible evacuation points? bring your victim to the side of the river with the easies evacuation points.
- Above all, don't put your victim in a worse situation!

Bill Walters
Commodore, UDCNCSP Inc.

From the Training Director

We had an unexpectedly HUGE turnout of new members for training weekend and it really made our job quite challenging this year. First and foremost, I want to thank my training and command staff for the tremendous effort they put in to be flexible and provide, yet again, an outstanding training experience. If you are not on the inside looking out, you may not realize all the work that the trainers put in long before training weekend. Then, once it gets rolling, there are always last minute changes and unanticipated conditions that create a whole new batch of work. Looking back, I wish I had spent more time gushing about how professionally the training staff handled the weekend - they really deserve a standing ovation! I also thank the many veteran members who we drafted to help out in many support roles. My being able to count on everyone's full effort, no matter what the job, makes training weekend successful.

Our planning for next year actually started the evening of April 27th over pizza. We have started brainstorming and fleshing out a plan that will be quite different from our training weekend format over the last several years. I am looking forward to a very stimulating training next year. By the way, go ahead and mark your calendars now: April 24-26, 2009. Now that I'm finally starting to recover from the beginning of the season, we certainly hope that all those freshly trained members are getting out on the Delaware patrolling. Hopefully mentors and mentees are able to coordinate schedules so that you can patrol together, but we have many veteran members who are also ready to give some "on the job training." Take care, and see you in April for sure.

Megan Duffy
Training Director

NCSP / NPS Training Exercises



NPS Interpreters drill on in-water mobility techniques
(Photo Credit D. Branch)

Skill Drills Update

The first year of implementing Skill Drills has already met with success. The concept is to practice, during the paddling season, sets of skills that we learned at Training Weekend and we need to keep sharp for River Rescue. The second Sunday of each month was set aside for practice from 9 - 11 am, right after sign in.

In May we worked on boat unpinning and June - In water mobility & the strainer drill. We had an immediate pay back in June when the NPS seasonal trained with us. That Sunday afternoon both NCSP and a patrol from NPS combined forces in Shohola rapids following a river clearing thunderstorm.. As a livery boat couple resumed their trip thru Shohola, they capsized and pinned their boat mid river. One NPS seasonal joined the NCSP team using in water mobility skills to reach the couple, unpin the boat and get both under way mid river. The 2nd NPS person, with out direction, set up down stream safety as practiced that morning at Skill Drill. Talk about timing!

The July set was canceled but will be combined with August. On Sunday 8/10, we will practice both Combat Swimming (aggressive swimming in rapids) and Foot Entrapment. We will meet at 9 am at Zane Grey Museum for sign in. Water levels permitting, we will likely work near the PA parking area at the Roebling bridge.

Submitted by Dejay Branch and Dick Rhodes

Casualty Report

We regret to relay that two drownings were reported on Friday July 4th on the Upper Delaware.

Both incidents were said to involve swimmers from campgrounds - not boaters and not in areas we commonly patrol - but still drownings. According to reports, as with too many previous incidents, again no PFD's.

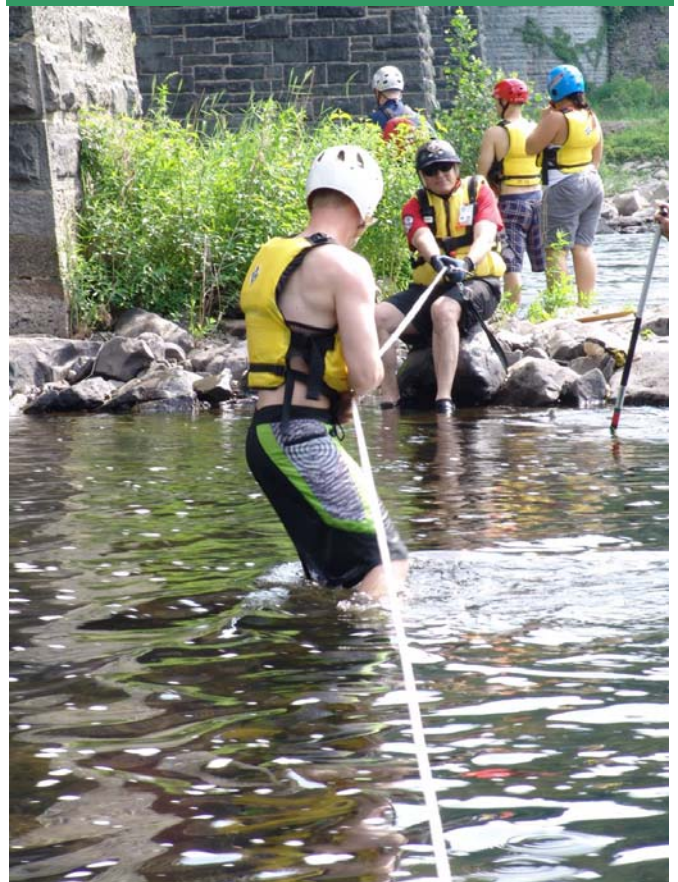
One incident was reportedly at Landers' Skinner Campground ABOVE the Milanville Bridge.

The other incident was reported to occur at Lander's Minisink riverside campground up river from Luke's Landing.

Both victims were males in late teens and mid 20's.

A third drowning occurred on Friday July 17. Again it was a swimmer in the early evening in the Minisink campground area. Like the others, it was a young male without a PFD.

NCSP Members in Action



Ray Mei assists on a Taunt Line Demo/Drill
(Photo Credit D. Branch)

Another training experience

Interestingly enough, I just completed a Swiftwater Rescue training weekend with Zoar Outdoor the weekend after Memorial Day. This is for the Dive Team in Tolland County, CT, which has come to realize that they are THE ones who will be called in the event of a swiftwater incident. They also, wisely, realized that they lacked the training and equipment for this kind of incident (yes, surface rescue in moving water is VERY different from body recovery in an icy lake just in case you didn't figure that out!), so off they went for training. Joel, Rebecca and I (all members of this dive team) happily signed up and got to swim in some very interesting Class III rapids in the Zoar Gap. I am VERY thankful that I at least got to observe Bill Walters' and Mike Webster's class on swimming in the rapids. I ended up not being able to get myself into the eddy (but I'm told my roll was beautiful!) and tried to drink half the river as I eventually made it to shore. Ah, well - that's what training is for! After that bumpy start the rest of the weekend was a breeze!

One thing the dive team members noted was what self control and patience our son, Bryan, displayed while Joel and I were up to our necks in standing waves. Of course, anyone who has patrolled with us would not find this surprising. Bryan was on the river since he was in the womb, and he's been well trained about how to handle himself in rescue situations. Bryan also has taken it one step further this year. While on patrol Memorial Day weekend, he initiated his first rescue by beating us all out to an overturned boat and reassuring the paddlers. Needless to say, Bryan is a great source of pride for us!

submitted by M. Duffy

Save the Date

We are targeting Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 3-7pm for the Fall Dinner. Location is yet to be decided and will be announced.

Service Reminder

August is the last month in which to complete your service commitment of 4 days of service on the river this season. (Also to be eligible for the incentive drawing at the fall dinner). See you in August! Last day of eligibility is Labor Day.

Jeffrey A. Bartges

Jeffrey Allen Bartges, 49 of Upper Milford Township, died Sunday, May 4, 2008. A graduate of Temple University School of Law, he practiced in the local, county, federal and appellate courts for 25 years. He was active in various conservation efforts, canoe and kayak groups and had served in the National Canoe Safety Patrol. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Macungie.

Reported in the Morning Call on May 6, 2008.

NCSP Members in Action



Safety Team on Strainer Demo/Drill
(Photo Credit D. Branch)

NCSP Contact Information

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Press Watch

On Saturday July 19, the Times Herald-Record carried a front page feature with the headline 'Wear Your Life Jacket' and an article titled "Delaware 'is not a swim club'" featuring an interview with Ingrid Peterec and Richard Rhodes. The article emphasized the importance of wearing life jackets on the river. The NCSP figured prominently in the article.

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080719/NEWS/807190320/-1/NEWS14>

Articles and Photos

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.

NCSP in Action



J Billitz demonstrates swimming in rapids
(Photo Credit D. Branch)

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 run on the Delaware River between Skinners Falls at Milanville 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 listed earlier in 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
NCSP
PO Box 91,
Lackawaxen, PA 18435

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.