



NCSP

NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

March 2008

“The Safety Boating Mind Set”

Once you complete your first swiftwater rescue class, pull your first boat off a rock, or hit your first victim with a throw bag, your perspective on whitewater boating will change forever. Never again will you look at folks going down a river without seeing things that may endanger them. You will see rivers not only for the cool rapids but for the hazards and staging locations for rescues at those hazards. Once you've done the dreaded strainer drill you will never willingly go near a real strainer. The lack of pfd's, ropes dangling in the water, and people trying to stand in rapids will drive you nuts! Welcome to the safety boater's world.

This mind set also affects the way we behave in the water and requires us to practice those skills and continue looking to develop new skills. A great example of this is how we swim in rivers. Traditionally we learned, actually beat into our heads, that we swim feet up in the traditional safe way. As rescuers we need to learn to swim aggressively in rivers, our purpose is not self preservation it's to get somewhere.

We also drill! At times you must wonder “how many times can I do a foot entrapment drill”. In the military the purpose of drill is to make a skill set a “natural reaction”. Our goal is to be able to set these rescues up without struggling to remember what to do. Drill can help eliminate confusion, disorganization, and arguments ultimately resulting in a quicker and more effective rescue.

Our choice to be rescue/safety boater will forever change how you see paddling. This choice also comes with the responsibility to keep your skill sets up to date. Others look upon us when it all hits the fan, we don't want to let them down, and we are the safety boaters!

Bill Walters
Commodore

It's Training Time!

Our annual Training Weekend this year will be Friday April 25 - Sunday April 27, 2008. You can start arriving around 4:00 PM (1600) on Friday to check in at the Luke's Landing Incident Command Post. Just look for the big white sunshade and our logo. There is a Radio Procedures class running Friday evening starting at 7:30 (1930) open to anyone (veteran or new members) who wishes to practice radio use, specifically communication with National Park Service dispatch.

A note about safety: please remember we will be working hard each day so bring plenty of water and snacks to keep up your energy. Also, we will be outdoors all day so sunscreen is necessary. If you have any injuries or health concerns that might affect your participation, please notify us upon registration.

We will have some new courses this year, and of course many of our oldies so we can keep our skills fresh. Bring appropriate river gear as we will be getting wet (and cold). If you do not have a wet or dry suit, Kittatinny is able to rent a wetsuit to you. Lunch is provided on Saturday. We will be finishing up on Sunday around 1:00 (1300).

We are hoping for a good turn out and, as always, good weather. Remember to bring a copy of your CPR and First Aid Certifications with you when you register. We must have proof of your current certification in order to renew (or grant) your active membership for the next year. I look forward to seeing you in April!

Also, if available, please bring your previous year's NCSP ID badge.

Megan Duffy
Training Director

DELAWARE RIVER NEWS

The River is safe from power lines for now. When asked by Steve Israel of the *TIMES HERALD RECORD*. "How about the Delaware River corridor?" NYRI President Chris Thompson said "That's not a viable plan. Here's this pristine area where everyone goes hiking and camping. We're not going through there." The company has removed the river from its application to the NYPSC (Public Service Commission). Thanks to the UDPC and many citizens group for staying informed and getting the word out to our politicians and to the people. We all still need to keep our eyes and ears open for the next big threat to the Upper Delaware region.

Coming soon: "Bait and Switch"

submitted by D. Branch

SKILL DRILLS

In order to keep our rescue skills sharp, we will be offering practice opportunities/Skill Drills in 2008. Current plans are to practice a given skill set from 9-11 AM one Sunday each month during the paddling season. This timing allows warm weather practice of skills needed for swift water rescue situations. The Skill Drill would start immediately after sign in on the designated Sunday, still allowing time to patrol after 11 AM.

Tentative 2008 Skill Drills Schedule

Sunday May 11 - Z Drag & Boat Unpinning

Sunday June 8 - Strainer Drill

Sunday July 13 - Combat Swimming

Sunday Aug 10 - Foot Entrapment

Locations & instructors to be announced. Signup on the web site schedule.

Submitted by Dick Rhodes

NCSP Member in Action



David Frei on patrol near Zane Grey
(Submitted by DeJay Branch)

CPR Recertification - Friday April 25

Each NCSP member must maintain certification in CPR & First Aid. Individuals often do so locally via Red Cross, First Aid Squads or other qualified sources.

This year we are offering an opportunity on training weekend to RE-certify your Adult/Child CPR skills - to stay current.

WHEN: Friday April 25, 2008 1-5 PM

WHERE: Home of Mary K & Dick Rhodes
125 Riverview Dr, Lackawaxen PA

COST: \$20/person for recertification

INSTRUCTORS: June & Bill Snelling

REGISTRATION: Contact Dick Rhodes

570-685-1320

canoerr@aol.com

Class size is limited to 12. Five are currently enrolled, so register early.

Please note this is a Re-Certification course only; if this would be your first training in the skill or if your certificate expired more than one year ago, you will need take a full certification course elsewhere.

Spring Dinner

It is that time of year again. No matter what the weather training weekend it will be good to have a nice, hot dinner waiting for you! On Saturday, April 26th at 6:30 we will have dinner at the Carriage House in Barryville (\$25 per person) and the selections will include Prime Rib, Chicken Franchise, and Pasta Primavera Also included will be soft drinks, tea, coffee (there will be a cash bar). Time to make your reservation. Please plan to pay for dinner at check in for training weekend. Please contact DeJay Branch at vcom@nationalcanoesafetypatrol.com or 570-685-1824 to reserve your spot.

2008 UNIS Trip

Space is still available on the safety/instructional team supporting the United Nations International School trip. Bill Walters is looking for qualified NCSP people to participate with the 2008 trip. This year's trip will be May 20, 21, and 22nd. If you're a veteran of this trip or a new person interested and want more details, please e-mail Bill at www.riverratbilly@yahoo.com.

New sign-in Procedures for 2008

Please be reminded of the new sign-in procedure with NPS for 2008. This procedure will be used on weekends and holidays to decide patrol locations and to secure and return NPS radios and drybags.

NCSP volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. "river ready" at the NPS Zane Grey office in Lackawaxen, PA. Please be geared and ready to patrol. Our NPS contact will be Ingrid Peterec, Intern Supervisor. NPS will be responsible for supplying needed radios, batteries and drybags each morning and receiving same at the end of the patrols. Each NCSP member will be signed in at that time for a given patrol.

The Ingrid's NPS office is on the 2nd floor of the Zane Grey museum in Lackawaxen on the PA side of the Roebing Bridge. This procedure will be in effect from May 1 thru October.

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 Contact Information

Commodore:

Bill Walters
Commodore@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com
570-587-2446



Vice Commodore:

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570-685-1824



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Donna Ford
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201-280-3133



Training Director:

Megan Duffy
NCSP_Training@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com
(860) 228-5127



Advanced Scenarios 2007



Cards for Art

Our staunch volunteer, Art Paolini, suffered a bad fall at home and is undergoing rehab. A card or note of encouragement would be well received. Send to: Art Paolini, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, 501 Saint John Street, Allentown, PA 18103.

Submitted by Ken Bailey

Membership Dues

Please be reminded that yearly dues are \$20 per person or \$40 per family. Part of this cost will provide for a lunch on Saturday during training weekend. Payments may be mailed to NCSP Treasurer, P.O.Box 91, Lackawaxen, PA 18435.

Delaware River Sojourn

Volunteers are still needed for the Delaware River Sojourn, the last week in June (7 days Sun-Sat). Day 1 & 2 run from Calicoon to Narrowsburg and N'burg to Minisink Ford. Camping will be at Lander's Narrowsburg base. For 2008, the Sojourn will have 6 safety escorts / day...and wants NCSP trained paddlers. Interested members should contact Dick Rhodes at CANOERRR@aol.com or phone 570-685-1320

LEHIGH RIVER SOJOURN

The Lehigh River Sojourn, a well run event; this year will be on the river for 5 days starting Saturday June 21, 2008. Although it is not an official NCSP function, we are soliciting NCSP trained people to participate on the safety team. If interested please contact Bill Walters at 570-587-2446 (no calls after 8pm please).

Spring Training Drill



Foot Entrapment Drill 2007



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.