



NCSP

NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

July 2009

From the Commodore

I hope we are all having a great summer. Spring rains and temperatures have stayed with us but river levels are great. Our 30th anniversary party was a huge success, a big thanks to Mary K Rhodes! Another big thanks to Troy and DeJay for the use of the school house, they are both a class act!

This Spring's training format was a real winner. Hats off to the training staff for another outstanding performance. Thanks to Megan; she will be missed as Training Director and leaves some big shoes to fill.

The NCSP continues to grow and once again took a large role in both the Delaware and Lehigh Sojourns. We are sending Crash and Mike Webster to a two week ACA instructor training course in August and will begin offering SWR instructor certifications soon after. We will post these in the fall newsletter and the website.

2010 will present the NCSP with many opportunities, but we need your help. We have some leadership changes; I will be stepping down along with Megan Duffy and Donna Ford. Megan and Donna have put in countless hours over the years and will be difficult to replace. We will have two major officer position open, Commodore and Treasurer. Troy Bystrom has been appointed by the board as interim Treasurer. If you are interested in running for any office, please let the board know before September 1, 2009. If you have question on the duties of each office please contact me and I will be glad to share the joys and sorrows of NCSP offices.

Have a great summer and paddle safe!

Bill Walters
Commodore, National Canoe Safety Patrol UDC
Inc.

NCSP Celebrates 30 Years

Sunday, May 24 @ 6 pm

Sunday May 24, 2009 NCSP 30th Year Picnic. Sunday night was the scene of the 30th birthday party for NCSP. Our NPS partners were our guests for this recognition of 30 years of volunteer service on the Upper Delaware. Total attendance was 140.

Troy & DeJay were gracious host for the pig roast and ribs, etc. Our thanks to NPS for the loan of tents in case of bad weather.

The brief program recognized the founding Commodore Chris Nielsen and those charter members still active. It was noted that NCSP volunteers (using their own boats, gear, gas and time) have contributed a grand total of more than 100,000 hours valued by NPS at approximately one million dollars. Recognitions, by two congressmen, of NCSP volunteer efforts were read by 2 charter members. R Rhodes was honored with The George B Hartzog Jr Individual Outstanding Volunteer Service Award from NPS, Northeast District. The party was the highlight of the social season in Lackawaxen!

SKILL DRILLS

Building on last year's success, we have continued a schedule of Skill Drills the second Sunday each month during the paddling season. As before, the NPS seasonal rangers and interns will join NCSP volunteers in the Skill Drills providing instructional opportunities as well as warm weather practice of the skills needed for our rescue work on the river. We meet from 9 - 11am immediately after sign in at the NPS Zane Grey office on the scheduled Sunday. Here is the remainder of the tentative schedule for Skill Drills in 2009:

Sun, July 12 - Combat Swimming & Strainer Drill
Sun, Aug 9 - To Be Announced (see website calendar)

Patrol Log

Saturday May 2, 2009 : Five persons ran 2 patrols, Pete & Dick at Skinners and Cedar/ Shohola by Dave & Jane Simon and Mitzi from NCSP Lower Chapter. Little traffic.

Sunday May 3: Five persons ran 2 patrols - Did not see so much as a dead fish on the river. Jim M, John E & Dick ran Cedar/ Shohola while Dave & Jane patrolled Staircase to Sparrowbush. Kittatinny closed their Mattamoras base with zero customers.

Saturday May 9: Patrol cancelled on anticipated light traffic.

Sunday May 10: Four members patrolled with three rescue canoes (two solo, one tandem) starting from Kittatinny's Staircase Rapids access with one mid-patrol checkpoint call to Dispatch from below Mongaup Rapids and finishing at Sparrowbush fishing access. No rescue or recovery incidents; river traffic was very light.

Saturday May 16: Saw 2 patrols with 6 volunteers. One at Skinners with Ranger Bill Weber also on station and the other patrol moved to TMR to Zane Grey based on anticipated traffic. Numerous Boy Scout trips were seen but a river level of 3.4 ft meant most rocks were covered and the water moved the canoes along with little problems.

Sunday May 17: Overnight rain raised the river to 5.9 ft. One patrol of 2 veteran members and 2 newer members ran from TMR to Zane Grey in about 2 hours. The new policy of updated radio locations for patrols proved valuable when Dispatch called about locating a Cedar Rapids group because of the rising waters. The NCSP patrol was able to eyeball the group and confirm their location and status.

Saturday May 23 With 20+ volunteers we gave full coverage with 5 patrols. Water depth : ~4.4 ft.
1) Stationary patrol at Skinners with valued support by Ranger Weber. Heavy volume in the morning hours due to Scout troops.
2) Skinners to Zane Grey for a 20 mile patrol with periodic radio checks.
3) TMR to Zane Grey
4) Lukes Landing to NPS Barryville, Concentration at Shohola rapids. The higher water level allowed good travel through a normally rocky stretch.
5) Staircase to Mattamoras Kittatinny provides an early shuttle to facilitate this section

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From the Training Director

Well, we completed yet another training weekend to get us off to a roaring start of our 2009 season. I again would like to thank all the numerous instructors for their amazing performance this April! The new format of training was very well received and that is, in no small part, due to the teaching that our instructors delivered. Their hard work and preparation is a tribute to our organization. I was most pleased to see how the more intimate learning environments allowed for increased individual participation. That was the intent, and I think it worked!

Of course, there were many other supports that made the weekend run well – MaryK for our lunch, the veteran members who were recruited to provide safety, and of course my command staff (Joel, Donna, June, Hal, Crash, and Bill W.) whom I could always depend on! I know there must be others I am forgetting, because it takes an incredible (and large) team to pull off that annual event and we have been very fortunate to have so many people willing to step up to the plate.

I again want to thank you and Bill Walters for allowing me to be your training director for these past five years. I have only unofficially passed the baton, but I believe my successor will bring new and exciting ideas to our future training weekends, and I look forward to being a part of them!

Sincerely,
Megan Duffy
Training Director,
National Canoe Safety Patrol UDC Inc.

National Canoe Safety Patrol Election Committee wants You!

If you are interested in running for an office in the NCSP, please let us know! We have elections every fall for the following offices:

Commodore
Vic Commodore
Secretary
Treasure

Please contact any board member if you are interested.

Patrol Log (part 2)

Sunday May 24, 2009 We had 34 volunteers A RECORD TURNOUT Put out 4 patrols, heavy traffic and water levels at ~4.5 ft

- 1) Skinners
- 2) TMR to ZG - a section isolated from 97, popular but few problems.
- 3) Luke's Landing to NPS Barryville access with a concentration at Shohola rapids as it is lengthy and isolated from 97. Having part of our April training at Shohola rapids made members more comfortable here.
- 4) Staircase to Mattamoras An NPS Intern's canoe training trip on Friday, made us aware of a strong wave that develops at Upper Staircase at a water level around 4.5 ft. Patrols over Memorial weekend were alerted to this potential challenge.

Monday May 25 15 volunteers, did 3 patrols in good weather and 4.5 water levels. No major problems reported over the weekend.

- 1) Skinners (4 persons)
 - 2) Lukes to NPS Barryville (7 persons but 4 left Shohola at lunch for a long drive back to Conn)
 - 3) Staircase to Mattamoras (4 persons)
- NCSP Patrol Report for Sat/Sun May 30/31, 2009

Saturday May 30 - water level was 7.2 ft at 11, 600 cfs Patrols were at Skinners and Staircase to Mattamoras. Skinner activity was largely rafts in the morning. However one scout troop in AI canoes ran it without incident. The water was treeline to treeline. Efforts were directed to making people acutely aware of the high water dangers and pressing for PFD's to be on and secure.

The rapids from Staircase put in to Mattamoras were roaring. At Staircase Rapids, a rafter slipped on shore and dislocated his shoulder. Dispatch contacted a power boat patrol and the ranger transported the victim to a land based ambulance. Canoes were prone to swamp in this section at these water levels. Liveries primarily used rafts.

Sunday May 31 - River was about 6.2 ft and 8,000 cfs. One patrol of 4 boats covered Lukes Landing thru Cedar Rapids and spent time at Shohola Rapids. The sparse traffic was all rafts. One new NCSP person has already served 5 days this season.

The procedure of a 9 am sign in on Sat & Sun at Zane Grey is working well. Ingrid Peterec provides radios or fresh batteries as needed and coordinates NCSP and Intern patrol locations to optimize available skilled personnel. Training, coordination and good judgment are especially important at these river conditions.

Saturday June 6. A 2 person patrol was at Skinners, ably supported by Ranger Weber. Water level 4.5 ft.

Sunday June 7 Four paddlers went to Skinners with the option to paddle to Narrowsburg, NY

Patrol Log (part 3)

Saturday June 13 - We had 12 - 15 volunteers and the Delaware was at 4.2 ft with generally good weather At the request of the Upper Delaware Conservancy, we dispatched Peter VanSlyke to provide safety for their trip of 45 paddlers going from Buckingham Park to just beyond Long Eddy. Three other patrols were:

A) Skinners - a few swamped canoes in medium traffic
B) Cedar/ Shohola - freed a pinned canoe and enabled the trip to continue. The isolated set of Shohola rapids continues to warrant our coverage. NCSP April training in this location was beneficial.

C) Staircase to Mattamoras -A number of swamped canoes at the major rapids were assisted. Mill Rift was unexpectedly challenging at 4.2 ft. Kittatinny Canoes continues to provide a courtesy shuttle for this section

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Articles and Photos

We are always looking for articles and Photos; please submit to

NCSPSecretary@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com

Articles may or may not be published at the discretion of the executive board.

Many thanks to Dick Rhodes for writing the the patrol logs included in this edition of the newsletter.

NCSP Contact Information

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New Member Liason:

Dick Rhodes
Canoerr@aol.com
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Patrol Log (part 4)

Sunday June 14 - A Skill Drill from 9 - 10 am included 7 NPS Interns and 12 NCSP volunteers. The dry land drill covered 3 methods of in water mobility as well as the Snag-Tag for extracting foot entrapped victims. NPS sent a power boat based team to remove a tree strainer at the foot of Butler's Rift. NCSP Bruce Wyman was sent as an upstream safety to keep canoes, kayaks & rafts away from the strainer work. Cedar/Shohola patrol - challenging but light traffic
Staircase to Mattamoras - challenging but light traffic

Saturday June 20 - One patrol went from staircase to Mattamoras to scout that run before the Delaware Sojourn started. NCSP volunteers were: Ken Bailey, Marc Magnus & John Bilitz.

Sunday June 21 - DE River Sojourn ran from KC River Beach to Dingmans Ferry access. 12 miles in 2 hours with rafts and a few hard boats. No problems. NCSP safeties were: Dave & Jane Simon, Troy & Dejay, Pat & Walter South, Ray Mei, Bob Schagel, Jim Schmidt, Joe & Joseph Bennett and Dick Rhodes

Saturday June 27 - The river was at 6 ft early Sat. On Thursday, we heard that a race was planned Sat .from TMR to Mattamoras as well as numerous Boy Scout groups, in hard boats, going down river from TMR or Pond Eddy. (NPS contact reports for TMR were in access of 700).

We issued an "All Hands" call to the membership as both the Delaware and Lehigh Sojourns were active Sat using mostly NCSP folks as safeties.

Ten more NCSP volunteers came Sat. We put out 3 patrols to cover Konkeilli, Shohola rapids and Staircase to Mattamoras. Many swamped boats but no injuries. We used tandem canoes in Shohola.

River coverage was coordinated with NPS and the liveries. Thanks to all who were able to respond on such short notice.

Sunday June 28. River at 5.5 ft. The crowds went home and the sun was out. A 4 person patrol from TMR saw little activity.

Friday July 3. This holiday Friday was also the start of summer releases from Lake Wallenpaupack on the Lackawaxen River. Large turn out of paddling club boaters. Traffic on the Delaware was very light, with no NCSP patrols.

Saturday July 4 - Some 16 NCSP volunteers ran four patrols (Skinners, TMR to ZG, Cedar & Shohola and Staircase to Mattamoras). River was at 4.9 ft, good weather and traffic was fairly heavy with a good mix of rafts, canoes & kayaks.

Sunday July 5 - A good turn out of 12 NCSP volunteers placed 4 patrols on the river. Traffic was light, weather beautiful and no major incidents to report

Saturday July 11 - River height was about 3.5 ft, closer to seasonal levels and temps in the upper 70's. A good turn out of NCSP volunteers enabled us to field 3 patrols. River traffic was good but lighter than previous years.

Sunday July 12 - Some 10 NCSP folks and 6 NPS interns had an active Strainer Drill in the currents by the Roebing Bridge. Lots of realistic practice in overcoming deadly strainers. Patrols were at Skinners and Staircase to Matta. Also a team provided safety for the annual Calicoon canoe race to Lander's Skinners base. Thanks to Dave Simon for staying to help with the Strainer Drill.

New Membership Information and Initial Application

The NCSP was founded in 1978 for the purpose of encouraging and promoting boating safety, including:

- Providing a shore-based and boat-based safety presence in cooperation with river management agencies, race organizers and other safety and rescue organizations.
- Providing 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, PA and Port Jervis, NY. 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 plan on attending the first available training, usually the last *full* weekend in April. Please mail dues of \$30 per individual or \$60 per family with the registration information form below to:

NCSP Treasurer
PO Box 91,
Lackawaxen, PA 18435

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.