



# NCSP

NEWS

Upper Delaware  
River Chapter

February 2010

## “Commodore’s Corner”

As the new Commodore I am in my learning phase. Seeing all the planning and work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the NCSP running, I am very thankful to the board and all the supporting members. We all know about the river patrols, training weekend, Sunday morning Skill Drills, and sojourn safety, but did you know there is also training for the “Y” camps, the livery service staff, and NPS staff and interns? This year the Lackawaxen was named River of the Year 2010 by PA's DCNR and NCSP will be part of a two day river trip to highlight this valuable resource. We can be proud of an organization that makes paddling safer and more enjoyable for the general public and ourselves.

Sean McGuinness will be taking over as Superintendent of the Upper Delaware National Park. We look forward to meeting with him and building on the partnership we have had with the NPS for the past 30 years. We are planning more joint training with the NPS. Ingrid will continue to be the NPS liaison with us.

Bill and the training staff are pulling together another great training weekend, helped by a number of NCSP instructors trained by Crash O'Neil and Mike Webster last fall. Through an NPS educational grant for coursework and safety equipment, Crash and Mike were able to attend a course toward ACA Instructor Trainer certification so they will be qualified to certify other instructors - particularly our staff. When you see Ingrid please thank her again for the work she did to get this grant approved.

Being new at the Commodore's post I look forward to hearing from you. Any suggestion to improve the organization or just let me know how I am doing is welcomed. I will see you training weekend and I will bring along again the cookies my wife bakes each year for us to share.

Ray Mei  
Commodore

## From the Training Director

Over the history of NCSP, training scope and standards have been refined and adapted to river rescue like no others I have seen. We fit in a place few organizations find themselves, between basic “trip safety” and traditional rescue 3. “Down and Dirty” river rescue is the cry of new SWR classes being taught to whitewater boaters, yet it is something we've been doing for the past 30 years.

For 2010 we plan on continuing the Incident Command System as a basis for organizing our training. The two training locations worked very well last year and we are going to continue that format. What I need from members is ; what did you think we should continue, is there something we should add, something we did in the past you liked, let me know ([www.riverratbilly@yahoo.com](mailto:www.riverratbilly@yahoo.com)).

Over all training will address real world rescue skills we need on the river, getting people out of bad situations and hopefully getting them back down river. “Down and dirty” to me means getting recues done as simply as possible, as fast as the situation will allow, and as safe as possible. I look forward to the challenges ahead of me and the NCSP in the continuation of our mission.

Training details will be forthcoming in the spring newsletter and posted on our website. Veteran trainers and new can expect emails soon. If you want to participate in training please let me know asap!

Peace,  
Bill Walters  
NCSP Training Director

## Lackawaxen Named River of the Year 2010

PA's Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources named the Lackawaxen "River of the Year 2010" "A recreational treasure renowned for its fly-fishing and canoeing, the Lackawaxen harbors a wealth of bird and animal species". Said DCNR Acting Secretary John Quigley, "Selecting the Lackawaxen River better enables DCNR to stress the value of healthy forests and greenways and encourage stream-side planting under its TreeVitalize program.", Said Quigley. "Whether it's educating the public on issues impacting the Pocono Plateau, such as gas drilling's impact on the environment and water resources, or touting tree planting, the Lackawaxen is an excellent teaching tool."

The Lackawaxen River Conservancy and its partners will organize several events throughout the year 2010, including a paddling trip and a river clean up in partnership with the Wayne County Historical Society.

The first ever Lackawaxen River Sojourn is planned for June 6 & 7. Dick Rhodes is chairman of the sojourn planning committee for the Conservancy. A number of events, in addition to the sojourn, are planned to celebrate the River of the Year designation including a partnership with the Eagle institute, a tour of the dams and headwaters of the Lackawaxen, a fall foliage train ride and a river clean up day.

River of the Year designations have been presented annually since 1983, but the Lackawaxen is the first small stream to be so recognized.

(Submitted by Dick Rhodes)

## Delaware River Sojourn

The Delaware River Sojourn will be June 20 through 26. For 2010 as in previous years, the Sojourn will have a number of safety escorts each day and as in previous years wants NCSP trained paddlers. Interested members should contact Dick Rhodes at [CANOERRR@aol.com](mailto:CANOERRR@aol.com) or phone 570-685-1320

## Sean McGuinness Named NPS Superintendent

Sean J McGuinness has been selected as the new superintendent of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, replacing Vidal Martinez. Sean's most recent assignment was at Fire Island National Seashore where he worked collaboratively with 17 communities within park boundaries.

McGuinness began his NPS career in 1977 as a seasonal river patrol ranger at Grand Teton National Park. He has served in parks in Alaska, Mississippi and at Crater Lake National Park and the Mojave National Preserve in jobs ranging from forester, law enforcement officer, chief ranger to deputy superintendent.

A native New Yorker, McGuinness was born in Buffalo and grew up in Lake View, NY. He graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from New York State College at Fredonia in 1977. McGuinness's interests include paragliding, backcountry travel, sailing, family and friends. He is expected to assume his new position on the Upper Delaware S & RR in early February 2010.

(Contributed by Dick Rhodes)

## Sandy Schultz's Retirement Party

Join us at Sandy Schultz's send-off and wish her well as she embarks on her new adventure after nearly 37 years of federal service.

Date: Saturday, February 27  
(Snow date Saturday, March 6)

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Place: Inn at Lackawaxen – Snacks, cash bar, buffet dinner, singing and dancing but NO boring speeches!

RSVP: By February 19, 2010 at 570-729-8251 ~ ~ \$15.00 per person

## 2010 UNIS Trip

We expect once again to support the United Nations International School on their trip in late May. Qualified NCSP people are needed. Whether you are a veteran of this trip or a new person interested and want more details, please e-mail me at [www.riverratbilly@yahoo.com](mailto:www.riverratbilly@yahoo.com).

Bill Walters

## PADDLER's EVENTS in 2010

February 20 Lehigh Valley Film Festival  
2 pm to 7 pm Note time change this year

March 26-28 Paddlesport - Jersey Paddler

April 24 & 25 NCSP - SWR Training

June 5 - 11 Schuylkill River Sojourn

June 13 & 14 Lackawaxen –  
River Of the Year Sojourn  
(Registration June 12)

June 20 - 26 Delaware River Sojourn

June (late) Lehigh River Sojourn

## Training Registration for 2010

Please be reminded that NCSP bylaws require members to maintain current first aid and CPR certifications to be eligible for patrol. Please be prepared to present your current certifications at registration for training this year. Members not presenting current certificates will not be eligible for patrol (and so will not be credited with NCSP service hours).

This year we are also moving to advance registration for training week. Please look for additional details in the Spring newsletter.

## NCSP Contact Information

### Commodore:

Ray Mei  
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862-703-1644



### Vice Commodore:

DeJay Branch  
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570-685-1824



### Treasurer:

Troy Bystrom  
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### Secretary:

Mark Szupillo  
[NCSP Secretary@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com](mailto:NCSP Secretary@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com)  
845-304-9536



### Training Director:

Bill Walters  
[NCSP Training@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com](mailto:NCSP Training@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com)  
570-587-2446



### New Member Liason:

Dick Rhodes  
[Canoerrr@aol.com](mailto:Canoerrr@aol.com)  
570-685-1320



## Articles and Photos

We are always looking for articles and photos information/education or NCSP mission driven material. Please submit directly to [NCSPSecretary@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com](mailto:NCSPSecretary@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.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:

- 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: Members will be required to sign a waiver prior to any patrols and must have the use of a canoe or kayak.