



NCSP NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

October 2011

Commodore's Corner

I would like to start by asking everyone to keep Dick Rhodes and Mary Kay in your thoughts and prayers as he is recovering. We hope to see him back to his former self soon.

Also, I would like to thank a number of people. Dick Rhodes again has added so much to the organization early this year and for many years. Mark Szupillo for filling in for Dick at the morning sign-ins and many of the activities Dick had been doing that are not as obvious. The funds we receive for providing administrative assistance during the Delaware River Sojourn is our largest source of funds; Troy and DeJay are responsible for making this happen, so thanks to you also. The training staff has also given of their time again this year. But, let's not forget our main purpose, providing swift water safety to the guests of the Upper Delaware National Park, so I thank all of you who came out to patrol and I thank the National Park Service that helps us in our efforts.

This being the end of another season let me reflect on some of what makes me feel good about what we do. Over the years I have helped many people get reacquainted with their boats, equipment and other stuff, young and old of both genders and many ethnicities. This season not only did I get to help many human park visitors that took unexpected swims but also two dogs.. The first dog swam to shore to shore so I guess I can't claim much help there other than helping the owner get to shore with his boat and helping the owner and dog to find each other. In the second dog incident, the family (mother, father and young daughter) were frantically looking for their dog. The daughter was hysterical as they held onto their capsized canoe. As Roger and I approached, Roger immediately reassured the family that they would all be safe. We flipped the canoe over and there was the dog just fine along with all their "stuff". The daughter scooped up the dog and they all held on as we towed the canoe and family

to shore. They were very happy that we were there and very appreciative of our efforts. These interactions with park guests make patrolling the river so worth the time. I am also sure we all have similar experiences so thanks again for your time volunteering with us.

Ray Mei

Fall Awards Dinner

The 2011 NCSP Fall Dinner will be held NOV 5th 1:30 4:30pm at WOODLOCH Springs.

The cost will be \$25 per person.
RSVP to Vice Commodore DeJay
at vcom@nationalcanoesafetypatrol.com
or call 646-205-2724 by October 14

Training Weekend 2012

"Save the Date"

Next year NCSP Training Weekend will be:
April 27 – April 29, 2011

First Aid and CPR Certifications

Please be sure to bring your current cards to Training weekend this coming spring.

Swiftwaterrescuenews

Earlier this season, Tom Wilkins submitted the following, "a link to the swiftwater rescue news; its free. Would it be possible to forward the link to the other members?"

<http://swiftwaterrescuenews.wordpress.com/>

SLATE of NCSP OFFICERS for 2011

The following are nominated for election at the annual dinner meeting on November 5, 2011.

Commodore	Ray Mei
Vice Commodore	Dejay Branch
Secretary	Mark Szupillo
Treasurer	Troy Bystrom

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Additionally, members are also needed to serve on the following standing committees (Per NCSP by-laws the Executive Board shall appoint all Committees, except for the Audit Committee which shall be elected). Standing Committees shall be formed as follows:

Entertainment Committee:

2 – 5 member working with the Vice Commodore to plan and execute all necessary arrangements for the social events of the NCSP.

Training Committee chaired by the Training Director consisting of at least 4 members

Audit Committee- 3 members in good standing, who shall be elected by the general membership to audit the financial records of the NCSP on an annual basis, and report their findings to the membership. (No one who has been a member of any Executive Board, during the current or prior two years may serve on this committee).

Nominating Committee: 3 to 5 members responsible for soliciting nominations to NCSP office from the membership, and to insure that at least one nominee is available for each position on the slate.

By-Laws Committee: 3 to 5 members responsible for assisting with all amendments and changes and to present interpretation of the Constitution and by-laws.

Web-Site Committee: 3 members responsible for development, maintaining, and updating the NCSP website.

Merchandise Committee at least 3 members to develop, design, order, sell and inventory all items the NCSP sells to its members.

Submitted by the nominating committee

Headcount Five? Or is it Six?

On Saturday June 11 Bruce Wyman, Mark Szupillo and I were on patrol, Zane Grey to Barryville. We stopped at Shohola rapids for a while. A raft containing five young men wearing feathered headdresses and smeared face paint (probably somebody's lipstick) float by. After satisfying ourselves that it's lipstick and no one is bleeding profusely from the head, I smile and start to lose interest. I guess we get used to seeing some strange things on the river.

We look up river and see, perhaps 100 yards away, what appears to be some lone figure floating. A tuber, thinks I. Didn't think they rented tubes this early. As the apparition gets closer, still too far off to see much detail, we realize there is no tube but there seems to be a snorkel??? I paddle over to investigate. It's a sixth visitor!! He's wearing his life vest (thank G-d), face paint and the snorkel is a couple of wet feathers on the side of his headdress. He's alternately trying to swim and stand up/walk. I realize the danger that he is in but am finding it extremely difficult to divorce myself from the humor in the situation.

"Could you use some help?" says I. "Do you think I can catch them?" answers he. I gaze down river. The rest of his group, in no apparent distress, has drifted into an eddy. I deduce that they each have only five fingers so it must be difficult for them to get a precise count to ascertain that one of their party is not on board. After talking to my swimming (barely) visitor and finding out that he fell out at the last rapid I determine that he is quite composed, and quite the happy drunk, and answer his question: "You can't but I can, grab onto my boat and I'll tow you over to them. He is totally clueless to how quickly this situation could turn bad.

I'm feeling more drag than I should (We're in a rapid remember) my visitor is trying to walk (Oyh Vey). "I could use some help, can you kick?" Sure enough it works and his feet are off the bottom. In a few moments the party is once again united and they open the beer chest in ritualistic celebration. His parting words "Ron, you saved my life. I'd give you everything I've got to thank you, but right now all I got is a beer. Would you like one?" The party smiles, all nodding, approvingly. What an honor, their offer! I decline and depart hoping that the Great Spirit (and the NCSP) continues to watch over them.

We fall back and follow them for a while. There will be a lot to talk about tonight when we open our beers around the campfire.

Submitted with a smile
Ron Kleiman

Shohola Rapids – September 3

NCSP - Saturday, September 3, 2011

Run: Zane Grey to Barryville Ranger Station

Conditions: Water level approx, 6 feet and 7000 cfs. Air temperature was in the high 70's and sunny. The water temperature was colder due to the remnants of Hurricane Irene. Patrol: Ron Kleiman, Don Harris, Marc and John Magnus-Sharpe

We had made an uneventful run from Zane Grey through Cedar Rapids down to Shohola. Pulling in for lunch at the confluence of Shohola creek, we talked about the weather, paddling gear, family events we had coming up and how each of us had almost not made it up for what had turned out to be a beautiful day. Besides a number of rafts and an infrequent canoe or kayak, the 6 foot river level and cooler temperatures seemed to have kept some folks off the water for the start of Labor Day weekend.

Looking up river, we watched a group of eight coming down in four rental kayaks and canoes, two of each. Mostly, their paddles were in the air and their boats were pushing downstream sideways into the bigger waves of Shohola. All were wearing lifejackets, though not adjusted on the sides, so were only of little help.

The first kayak took a big wave and rolled over, with the father falling out. Marc paddled out to the man and the overturned kayak. The man was able to take direction and grabbed onto the back of my boat. Marc brought him to the PA side of the river, well below Shohola, where he in panic was shouting to the rest of his family in a combination of Hindi and English. His group of eight was comprised of two grandmothers, three very young children (ages 4 – 7), a brother, his wife and himself. Three in the group were non-swimmers. Five of the eight either spoke little or no English. I told him to stay put so we could help the others.

At about the same time, the first canoe went over with the mother, grandmother and very young child. Ron was already in his kayak on the water heading to rescue them. All three could not swim and only the mother was communicative in English. Ron had all three clinging to his boat. In fact, the grandmother, well over 250 pounds was actually holding on hard to his life jacket straps. We worked together to get the grandmother to shift her hold to the boat lines. With the help of the mother speaking to her, we were able to divide the group safely, with mom on the front end of my kayak and the little girl sitting in my lap. Ron took on the greatest challenge working to move the exhausted, cold and heavy grandmother to the shore. He was able to safely get her out of the water, transferring her from his boat into a passing livery raft. He requested that they bring her to our takeout at the Ranger Station.

Marc got the mother and child to shore and sitting in the sun. A nearby a raft group agreed to take the mother and child around the bend to the Barryville Ranger Station takeout. Meanwhile, the second canoe had also tipped over with a grandmother and two small children now in the water as well. The last kayak was filled to the combing with water, and the father was using his paddle as a grab for the two children who clung to it. The second grandmother, two children and father were guided to shore, again on the PA side. John and Don met up where Marc going through a medical assessment of the grandmother. Her son indicated that she was diabetic with a heart condition.

John recruited a passing raft to help transport the grandmother and family to the Ranger Station. Don called in the request for EMS to meet us at the landing. We put all three in the raft together with Marc managing first aid. This allowed the father to translate and reassure the grandmother and kept the children secure with the family. Grandmother's condition improved significantly as she warmed up and started to relax from the shock of her time in the water. She later clarified that she did not have a history of heart problems, only that her chest was causing her pain due to the capsized. Her breathing became less labored.

John towed Marc's boat to the landing, where Don, Ron and Marc helped to get the grandmother out on shore with the rest of the family. We learned from the father that the mother was a Physician Assistant and she was able to provide more details on the grandmother's medical history to EMS arrived to take over medical care.

The Park Service also arrived to support the rescue and took over the process of gathering the entire family back together including the first person rescued, the father, who was still sitting on shore downstream of Shohola as well as the first grandmother, who had traveled with a livery raft but had missed the Barryville office takeout. Because she didn't speak English, it was a particular challenge to reconnect her with her family, which happened about 30-minutes later. She also went on to complain of heart pain and was treated by a second EMS unit.

Once all responsibilities were transferred to EMS and the Park Service, we met to debrief our rescue. We all recognized how quickly the situation had gone from mild to dangerous. Only when we were fully involved in the rescue did we come to learn that this group was composed of five non-English speakers, three non-swimmers, three young children and two grandmothers, both extremely heavy and both complaining of heart conditions. One key lesson learned: Get the name and number of any livery boat that takes a rescued person downstream to speed up finding everyone and getting them together again later. A second key lesson learned: assume that you will deal with a combination of issues including language barriers, health issues and both young and old persons poorly prepared for the possibility of being in the river. On that point, it was agreed that the livery should be reminded to ask questions about swimmer skill levels and to suggest rafts at this water level.

Final lesson: We were all reminded that by being there at Shohola at that moment we likely help save a family from what might have been a multiple drowning incident. Had we arrived there a few minutes later or left a few minutes earlier, the situation would have ended differently. Everyone who dedicates themselves to NCSP has moments where they consider whether or not to come to the river to patrol or to sleep in. Driving over early in the morning, each of us might have made another choice. But when we were asked where we wanted to paddle that day, we all had said, "wherever you need us." Turns out that made all the difference. Everyone who is part of NCSP makes that difference each time they sign on as volunteers.

Submitted by Marc Magnus-Sharpe

July 2 Patrol Service

Nearing the end of the patrol on July 2 we received a call from the Park Ranger Joe Hinkes asking us to escort four rafts from Indian Head to the Ranger station below Shohola. Unfortunately one of the rafts could not paddle a straight line to the take out. So I hooked on and began towing this raft with 6 obviously inebriated young ladies. Unbeknownst to me, 2 other rafts hooked on and joined the train. Of the 12-14 people involved, 3 were underage and in trouble. One was taken into immediate trouble as she was handcuffed and placed in the Rangers vehicle. NCSP member Roger Clark took these pictures with myself towing, Peter Van Slyke pushing Dave Frei, Skip Moyer and Tyson Frei observing. Another group of people that did not belong on the river were helped off by NCSP volunteers.

Submitted by Jim Schulte
President Lehigh Valley Kayak & Canoe Club



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.

NCSP Contact Information

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New Member Liaison:

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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.