



NCSP NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

March 2009

From the Commodore

In August 1979, I was looking forward to my freshman year in high school, Jimmy Carter was the President, and 52 Americans were being held hostage in Iran. I was driving with friends up to play around with some inner tubes at some "cool place" on the Delaware River. I was in the back of a 1972 Dodge pickup, Credence could be heard from the radio. I threw open the window, and it was hot. This was the first of many trips to Skinners Falls, a place I remember to be as wild as Woodstock. I also remember watching these characters helping boaters get themselves back together after getting trashed in their shiny aluminum canoes.

I returned some years later to kayak the same great rapid and saw the same people still rescuing distressed boaters. I became curious about who they were, asked some questions of a NPS ranger, who turned out to be Mr. Weber, and the rest is history. The NCSP got into my system and I find great pride in being the Commodore of the NCSP on its 30th anniversary.

Looking back on the work of the NCSP during the past 30 years is awe inspiring. The number of people giving countless unpaid hours, the money spent on gear, the training and responsibility we take on is impressive to say the least. This is the core to the success of the NCSP, its people and their unselfish willingness to give back to the paddling community. Our society has become less friendly in the past 30 years. It may be increased selfishness brought on by a consumer driven society, the change in fluidity of communities with the ease of transportation, but what ever the cause the paddling community remains a beacon of cooperation and community. Paddlers have been, and I hope will continue to be, very helpful and supportive on the rivers we paddle. We have all helped a new paddler take the correct line, given half a sandwich to the person who forgot their lunch, or given a ride ...
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NCSP Celebrates 30 Years

Sunday, May 24 @ 6 pm

A party to honor 30 years of service by NCSP will be held May 24, 2009 at 6 pm at the School House in Lackawaxen. We will have a beef and pig roast catered by Jerry Wicknes with lots of side dishes. Also a big 30th birthday cake and coffee. Troy & Dejay will host live music and a video show. In fact, they are looking for pictures/tapes that show early NCSP days on the river. Please check those old boxes for any early NCSP memories that can be part of Dejay's a/v show.

We are holding this over Memorial weekend to garner a big turn out. All are invited; former and current NCSP members, their families, all National Park Service members and families as well as friends/supporters in the area. We are selling tickets in advance as a courtesy to our caterer. They will be \$20/adult - See Mary K or Dejay for reservations. Come out, bring family & friends and help us celebrate 30 years of service.

Happy Birthday to us!

Mary K Rhodes

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
Treasurer

Please contact any board member if you are interested.

Training 2009

A reminder to all: Training Weekend will be April 24-26, 2009, rain or shine or sleet or snow. We are NCSP – something got knocked loose in us and we actually stand hip-deep in the river in any kind of weather, smiling!!!

This year, we plan to be stationed at Luke's Landing again! As in the past, come and find the command tent to check in. It is white and will have a big NCSP flag out front). We will be "open" on Friday from 1600 to 2300, and again on Saturday morning at 0730. Please check in immediately. We are setting up training teams that you will be with for most of the weekend, and we need to know who we have as soon as possible.

We will continue to make photo ID's for our members. Reminder: you MUST have a current CPR and First Aid certification – or better – to receive your ID. If we took your picture in the past, you won't have to endure another picture. If not, be prepared for the mug shot!

This year, if river conditions are favorable, we would like to put boats on the river during training, so please bring your boats with the understanding that all may not be needed. Remember to be ready for the water and bring whatever rescue gear you usually bring on patrol.

As you may already know, this will be my last year as Training Director. I will be passing the baton to Bill Walters. He will be under my wing this training weekend and sharing the load to learn at least some of the ropes. This is definitely one of those jobs where you learn by doing and Bill's devotion to the NCSP will serve him well in this new position. I have learned an incredible amount while running training weekends and I thank you all for your support.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Megan Duffy
Training Director

Lunch at Training – Sat. April 25

Again, lunch will be provided on Saturday of Training weekend: A hoagie, hot soup and beverage along with garden salad, power bar and water.

The following equipment loans are requested: folding tables, burners for the soup kettles and ground cloths to sit on.

Please call Mary K if you can loan these items or are available to help set up & serve lunch.
Please call 570-685-1320 or email canoerr@aol.com
Looking forward to seeing y'all at training!

Mary K

NPS Training Grant Awarded to NCSP

A stated objective of our Commodore and Board has been to achieve American Canoe Association (ACA) Swift Water Rescue (SWR) Instructor certification for a number of our teaching members. Previously this objective has been frustrated by a shortage of funds.

Thanks in large measure to NPS' Ingrid Peterec, we put together a grant request to NPS for funds to gain SWR Instructor certification for 6-8 qualified NCSP candidates. NCSP was awarded the grant!

In discussions with Charlie Walbridge (the guru of river safety) to find a qualified IT (Instructor Trainer), "Special Buddy" Charlie very generously offered to certify two of our best as ACA SWR Instructor Trainers. The course will be in West Virginia or on "the Yock" for 7-10 days. These two will be able in turn to certify more than 6 NCSP folks as ACA SWR Instructors.

A very heartfelt thanks to Ingrid and the NPS for making the grant request a reality. Also to Mike Webster and Crash O'Neill for stepping up to the challenge of IT certification.

Dick Rhodes

Delaware River Sojourn June 21–27, 2009

+ NCSP Volunteers Needed +

2009 marks the 15th year of the Delaware River Sojourn, a week long excursion on this wild & scenic river. The theme is No One Left Inside, which stems from the popular book *Last Child in The Woods* by Richard Louv. Too many people, adults as well as children, have what Louv calls "nature deficit disorder" from not spending enough time in the great outdoors. For more info go to: www.delawareriversojourn.org

This year NCSP will play an even greater role in the Delaware River Sojourn. Dick Rhodes, along with Kate O'Hara (DRBC) co-chair the planning committee; Troy Bystrom and Dejay Branch serve on the planning committee. They, along with Ray Mei and other NCSP trained volunteers, will again provide safety/rescue. This year NCSP is a support organization for the Sojourn. In addition to the major efforts cited above: NCSP VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AS LAND SUPPORT (daily registration, setting up camp and meals, rotating as river safety and general support). Please contact Dick if you can help for a few days. Call 570-685-1320 or email canoerr@aol.com.

The 2009 Delaware River Sojourn will start at Pond Eddy, travel through Mongaup & Butlers on Day 2 with 3 days of camping at KC River Beach. The Sojourn will end at Penn's Landing Park in Philly.
Dick Rhodes

From the Commodore (from page 1)

... back to the put-in to someone we just met. The NCSP embraces this mindset of helping; we put our own safety at risk to rescue a boater we never knew. Personally, a season has not gone by that I haven't said to myself, "If I wasn't there, they wouldn't have made it".

Thirty year anniversaries are a time to look back at accomplishments and to assess where we are going. We can all look back with a great amount of pride; we've done a hell of a job! One of my proudest statements I make to fellow paddlers is, "I'm a member of the National Canoe Safety Patrol". This reputation also carries with it the responsibility to carry on the commitment to the paddling community and the service we provide. I am excited and proud of where we are going. Here's to the next 30 years!

Respectfully,

Bill Walters
Commodore, National Canoe Safety Patrol UDC
Inc.

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

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(860) 228-5127



New Member Liason:

Dick Rhodes
Canoerr@aol.com
570-685-1320



SKILL DRILLS

Building on last year's success, Skill Drills are planned again for 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 will meet from 9 - 11am immediately after sign in at the NPS Zane Grey office on the scheduled Sunday. Tentative Schedule for Skill Drills in 2009:

Sun, May 24	Boat Unpinning & Haul Systems
Sun, June 14	Foot Entrapment & In Water Mobility
Sun, July 12	Combat Swimming
Sun, Aug 9	Strainer Drill & TBA

From Dick Rhodes

Astral Greenjacket Rescue PFD

Astral has finally released the Greenjacket rescue PFD. The vest has 15.5 lbs of flotation, integral spectra rescue loop, and rescue harness. The MSRP is \$209.00, NCSP members qualify for a 15% discount. If you are interested please contact Bill Walters at riverratbilly@yahoo.com.



PROS: Very well designed rescue vest, plenty of pockets for gear, and a storage pocket for a tow strap. Multiple wide straps for a secure fit. Low profile comfortable well designed rescue vest.

CONS: Low flotation, 15.5 can be considered minimum for a rescue vest. Shoulder straps are adjusted by changing profile of torso, would have liked a separate adjustment for shoulder strap length. Type V, you put it on over your head. This increases the overall strength of vest, but can be a pain to put on and off.

SUMMARY: Great new rescue vest for those looking for the low profile option. Still prefer my old Ranger for swimming in the big water.

Bill Walters

“River News”

Pond Eddy Bridge

Few people know that Pennsylvania DOT and the Town of Shohola are pushing to replace the Pond Eddy Bridge, one of the last remaining historic crossings on the Delaware. This could have many devastating effects on the River in the form of flooding, scenic and environment impacts as well as major traffic issues on Route 97 during the construction phase. One solution to this issue is to install residential fire suppression systems in the 12+ homes needing coverage, or place a smaller fire rescue unit on the PA side of the bridge.

Gas Drilling in the Region

Can you believe that people are being granted permits in the River Corridor? Yes, the watershed is in Danger due to of a lack of knowledge. 100% destruction for 10% possibility. Clean Water, Clean Air, Clean out your hears and listen to the facts. Exploration is not a good reason to destroy the Delaware River and its tributaries.

Power line Fight

Small steps towards a major victory are happening daily. US 4th Circuit Court reverses the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) broad interpretation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and holds that state denial of a permit application is not a withholding of approval for more than one year so as to confer jurisdiction on FERC. The FERC regulations are also vacated and remanded to FERC for the required consultation with the Counsel on Environmental Quality. Find out more at <http://www.caricoalition.org>

Let’s continue to protect and serve this River we hold so dear. -- Dejay 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, plan on attending the first available training, usually the last *full* weekend in April. Please mail dues of \$30 per individual for \$60 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.

