



# NCSP NEWS

Upper Delaware  
River Chapter

October 2009

## From the Training Committee

A NPS training grant has set into motion efforts to gain ACA SWR Instructor certification for our NCSP training staff. Charlie Walbridge offered to train two NCSP members (Crash O'Neil & Mike Webster) to ultimately achieve SWR IT (Swift Water Rescue Instructor Trainer) status. This will allow us to train & certify our own as Instructors.

So far, based on work this summer Charlie conferred level IV SWR Instructor status to Crash & Mike. There is a remaining ACA requirement for a level of experience gained acting as instructors before the final certification.

In both the move from trainer to Instructor and from Instructor to IT, the applicants must:

- 1) take the ACA course that they will teach
- 2) Teach that same course under the eye of an higher level instructor to gain certification.
- 3) ACA wants to see some teaching experience between 1) & 2)

In the case of gaining IT cert, Mike & Crash are ACA certified as Level IV SWR Instructors. They are required to gain experience teaching SWR classes to potential Instructors. To address this need two October Instructor sessions are being scheduled.

In the case of our NCSP teaching staff looking for ACA Instructor cert, they must first take the SWR course for Instructors (again, the October Instructor sessions), gain experience teaching the course skills (April) and then teach the ACA SWR course under the eye of an IT (when Mike and Crash gain IT status).

After gaining experience, Mike & Crash must teach our trainers under the eye of a Master ACA Instructor, to gain their certification as SWR IT's. These steps take longer than we wanted, but it is a clear path forward.

Submitted by Dick Rhodes

## Fall Awards Dinner

The 2009 NCSP Fall Dinner will be held at  
White Pine Inn,  
on Route 590 in  
Greely, PA

Sunday, November 1, 2009 from 4:00 to 6:30pm.

Dinner will be Buffet Style with Three Entrée Choices. The cost will be \$20/person.

Seating is somewhat limited so if you plan to attend, you must RSVP to Vice Commodore Dejay at [vcom@nationalcanoesafetypatrol.com](mailto:vcom@nationalcanoesafetypatrol.com) or call 646-205-2724 BY OCTOBER 21

## Next Steps for Vidal Martinez

Friday, September 11, 2009, Vidal announced that he leaves our Upper Delaware Park on October 23 for Prince William Park in the DC area. We understand a replacement is in the works, but Sandy Schultz will be the acting head in the interim.

A recent issue of the River Reporter carried an outstanding article about Vidal. Direct your Internet browser to:

<http://www.riverreporter.com/issues/09-09-17/head3-nps.html>

## Events Calendar

**Oct 3 & 4 or Oct 10 & 11** - SWR training by Mike & Crash for NCSP teachers (contact Dick)

**Friday Oct 23** - Vidal Martinez departs UDS&RR National Park

**Sun Nov 1** - NCSP Dinner at White Pine Inn, Greely, PA at 4 pm. (Board meets at 2:30). Contact Dejay for reservations and choice of entree. Cost is \$20/person.

## Patrol Logs

Most patrol logs for this season have been published on the web site.

Please direct your Internet browser to:  
<http://www.nationalcanoesafetypatrol.com>

## Patrol Log, Sunday, August 23, 2009

Superintendent Vidal Martinez, taking added steps after Sunday's drowning at Upper Staircase rapids, is invoking a provision of NPS Superintendents to require the wearing of PFD's on the Upper Delaware when "the river level rises to six ft or above". Kittatinny, Landers and Two Rivers have voiced support. There are specifics to be worked out, but is expected that the new rule will be in place for the next paddling season.

As background, a 4 person raft put in at Pond Eddy. The water level at the Barryville gauge was 7 ft at 9 am and dropped to about 6 ft that evening. When the raft was flipped by the curling wave at Upper Staircase, only 1 of 4 was wearing a PFD. Ranger Kevin and Intern Bob responded via power boat to the scene and threw a PFD to the drowning person, as he was not wearing one. The throw attempt was unsuccessful and Bob jumped in to help. The current and muddy water made it impossible to grab the victim. The drowning occurred at 1:39 pm Sunday. The body was recovered at Eddy Farm Wed am.

Adding to the frustration, a 3 person NCSP patrol stationed themselves around noon at Upper Staircase Rapid because "it has a bad curling wave at this level". They had moved on to Butlers Rift by the time of the drowning. Walter South, John Eilbacher and Jim Schmidt took off the river Sunday at 4:30 pm. Our thanks to Walter, John and Jim as they were the only NCSP patrol out that Sunday.

The River Reporter carried an article by Sandy Long on this incident titled "River Claims Another Life".

Read it at:  
<http://www.riverreporter.com/issues/09-08-27/head1-drowning.html>

## SLATE of NCSP OFFICERS for 2009

The following are nominated for election at the annual dinner meeting on November 8, 2009.

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

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Submitted by the nominating committee

## First Aid and CPR Certifications

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

## NCSP Volunteer Days in 2009

Incentive eligible days as recorded by NPS - April training not included

Days	Volunteers
18	Dick Rhodes
16	Dave Simon
15	Jim Schmidt, Jane Simon
14	Peter VanSlyke, Ken Bailey
10	Mike Webster, Don Harris, Nichole Boger, Tim Donnelly
9	Mark Szupillo, John Eilbacher
8	Ray Mei, Chuck Haupt, Walter South
6	Dave & Tyson Frei, David Miller
5	Alex Cutrone, Diann Connell, Bob Schargel, Marc Magnus, Dan Rempp, Tom Wilkens, Bruce Wyman, Gene Berliner, Joel, Megan & Bryan Duffy.
4	Dejay Branch, Troy Brystrom, John Bilitz, Deray Burton, Samantha Cutrone, Lois Gesner, Sara Magnus, Bob & Brandon Rezler, Jane Treubig, Mark Widergren, Ron Kleiman, Jim McCloone, Jim Schulte, Bill & June Snelling

Note: Some 46 NCSP volunteers patrolled for 4 days or more. A total of 79 served on the river for at least one day in 2009.

## Send Off Luncheon for Vidal Martinez

Superintendent Vidal is leaving October 23 for Prince William Forest Park - a 15,000 acre woodland preserve protecting the Quantico Creek in Virginia. A luncheon in his honor is planned for Friday October 23 from 11:30 to 2:30 at the Central House in Beach Lake, PA. The cost is \$13. Please RSVP to Chris Hollenbeck at 570-729-8253 ext 240 by Monday October 19.

Vidal says he would like a scrapbook, so please bring your pictures and written remembrances.

## Ken Bailey Walks on Water



Skinnners Falls Rapids – July 25, 2009  
Photo courtesy of Jane Treubig

## Articles and Photos

We are always looking for articles and Photos; please submit to [NCSPSecretary@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com](mailto:NCSPSecretary@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com)  
Articles may or may not be published at the discretion of the executive board.

## Gas Drilling vs. Clean Water for All

If the gas drilling companies are given permits to drill near or within the watershed, there goes the Delaware. Why would we think or say such a thing. These mega corporations care about us and are being totally "honest" about the ingredients of their fracking fluid.

They are using the latest safety procedures to insure no one's land or water is harmed during drilling. They have safe methods of disposing of the fracking waste water.

If they are so "on the level" about what is in the fluid, why is the so called "water and sand" solution shipped in heavy metal tanker trucks with bio hazard symbol dawning the sides? Why are they lobbying like "NYC Street hustlers" to remain exempt from the Safe and Clean Water Act and the Energy Act of 2005, which gives them unfair rights such as eminent domain. Why are they spending millions pitting neighbors against each other with unfair drilling leases? Why have perfectly healthy animals died within 24 hours from drinking the fracking fluid waste, and why do these companies still use insufficient methods of containing and discarding of this toxic waste such as open pits and injection wells?

Why should we as citizens be afraid for our water, our land, and our lives? Because, these companies are great at lying. They call it spinning the truth or managed public relations. We should call it spinning a web of deceit. If they will not disclose what is in the fracking mixture, then they should not be allowed to use that method near any home, public or private land or water source especially the Delaware which is the life blood for millions on the East Coast. These companies are drilling past the property mineral right lines to avoid paying well royalties. I would say that's shady. Many neighbors share the same aquifer so if one well is contaminated then every well is damaged. Yet, there are no protections for neighbors who just want to keep their drinking water and property safe. Why must there be a major incident (Dimmock, PA) or must someone die before action is taking. (Texas, Wyoming, and more)

If there is even a 1% chance of destroying our most precious resource, then that's to big a price to pay. We can survive without drilling for gas and oil, but can't survive without WATER.

Please go to town boards, call your representatives, talk to neighbors about protecting yourselves. Get informed and

SAVE the DELAWARE.

Contributed by Dejay Branch

## Magnus-Sharpe Lifejacket Checkpoint



Below Skinners Falls Rapids – July 25, 2009. Photo by Jane Treubig.

### NCSP Contact Information

**Commodore:**

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



**Treasurer (Acting):**

Troy Bystrom  
[NCSP\\_Treasurer@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com](mailto:NCSP_Treasurer@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com)  
 570-885-1824



**Vice Commodore:**

DeJay Branch  
[VCom@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com](mailto:VCom@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com)  
 570-685-1824



**Training Director:**

Megan Duffy  
[NCSP\\_Training@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com](mailto:NCSP_Training@NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com)  
 (860) 228-5127



**Secretary:**

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



**New Member Liason:**

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



### 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.