



NCSP

NEWS

Upper Delaware
River Chapter

August 2010

“Commodore’s Corner”

We are well into the paddling season. I have seen many of you on the river and it has been fun. We have had some very busy days with a lot of boat-overs, pinned boats, and young families that had unplanned swims and were glad we could help them and their boats safely back to shore. There were also the slow days with little traffic and no boating issues. It was a good time to practice boating skills, catching eddies, peel outs, ferrying, surfing (some may call it playing in the rapids), and practicing other skills and just having safe fun while watching out for the visitors to the park.

The week-end skill drills have been well attended. The instructors from both the National Park Service and NCSP from the two sessions I attended were excellent and I learned something new at each session. These skill drills are a good way to reinforce our skills along with and the NPS interns and rangers that have participated too. The first skill drill I attended, we learned how to use the park service winch. It puts the Z-dag to shame in terms of mechanical advantage. A couple of weeks later the NPS and NCSP used the witch to get a pinned boat off the rocks at Skinners Falls. This was the first time I couldn't get a boat off the rocks using our standard techniques. I am glad I had seen the witch in training. We still have one more set of Skill drills on August 7th & 8th.

NCSP also supported the Delaware, Lehigh and first ever Lackawaxen River Sojourns. I am most familiar with Delaware River Sojourn where Dave Simon heads the NCSP safety team and DJ and Troy head the land support team. What a job they do!! Talking to the sojourners they feel much safer and confident with NCSP (sometimes called red shirts) along. Plus when they are stuck on a rock or go over they really appreciate us there. Dick Rhodes was the overall head of the Lackawaxen Sojourn with DJ and Troy again handling the logistics. This was a two day sojourn along with a luncheon where many non-boating supporters also attended bringing the community together to support the Lackawaxen River being named Pennsylvania River of the Year.

Besides these activities, the NCSP has also been involved in safety for the United Nations International School (UNIS) trip, training for the liveries, and co-training with the NPS.

You can see it has been a busy summer. So if you hadn't had a chance to come up and patrol yet there still is time and many park visitors who could use your help on the river.

Thanks again for all the NCSP members and NPS personnel that have given of their time so far this season. I look forward to seeing you at the skill drills, on the river and at the fall dinner.

Thank you again,

Ray Mei
Commodore

Training Weekend 2011

“Save the Date”

In a small departure from tradition,
next year NCSP Training Weekend will be:
April 29 – May 1, 2011

Service Reminder

Please be reminded that there are only a few weekends remaining in the patrol season this year under our partnership with the National Park Service. For anyone who has not yet completed their four day service commitment, there is still some time left.

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
Vice Commodore
Secretary
Treasurer

Please contact any board member if you are interested.

Patrol Logs 2010

Sat May 1 – Temp. Mid 80's, Water level 4 ft @ Barryville gage. Two patrols were on the river. One NCSP member ran a trip of skilled paddlers from Skinners to Zane Grey
A 3 person team ran from Luke's Landing to the NPS Barryville office/take out.
Traffic was light but PFD wear was 100% - except for a fisherman in an inflatable rowing rig.

Sun May 2 – Temp. Mid 80's, Water level 4 ft @ Barryville gage.
A trip of skilled boaters, led by an NCSP member, ran from Zane Grey to Sparrowbush access
Two members, in a canoe & kayak, patrolled from TMR to Zane Grey. Saw only one other boat on the river.

Sat May 8 – Skill Drills were held both days from 9 - 11 am @ Zane Grey grounds
Dave and Tyson Fry taught anchors and haul systems along with Bill Weber on Sunday.
Ranger Kevin Reish taught knots and ropes assisted by Tony Broadwater and Ranger Bill Weber on Sunday.
NCSP attendance was 11 on Saturday and 10 on Sunday, including instructors
NPS had 5 participate on Saturday and 2 on Sunday including Kevin & Bill who also taught skills

Sun May 9 –: After Skill Drills, morning rain gave way to sun and high winds. River was 3.5 ft
Skinners had a 6 person patrol including one rookie, after 3 pm paddled to Narrowsburg.
Traffic very light, assisted one scout troop
Temp in the 50's with high winds - no visible river traffic - no patrols after skill drills

Sat May 16 – Ten volunteers ran 2 patrols.
The 4 at Skinners practiced boat unpinning and throw bags during a fairly quiet day
Veteran Pete Van Slyke mentored the newer members.
Six persons ensured the safety of 22 girl scouts on a run from TMR to Zane Grey

Sun May 17 – Two patrols, each with 3 volunteers.
One Luke's Landing through Cedar and Shohola rapids; another Staircase Rapids to Fireman's Beach/
Both days saw light traffic, partly cloudy with temps around 70 and water height of 3.8 ft.

Sat May 22 – Eight volunteers patrolled 3 river sections – Skinners, Narrowsburg to Zane Grey and Luke's Landing through Cedar & Shohola rapids. One pinned canoe at Skinners otherwise light traffic (mostly scout troops). River height was 3.4 ft, air temp reached 80 with sun and wind.

Patrol Logs 2010 (continued)

Sun May 23 – Four NCSP patrolled from Luke's through Cedar & Shohola rapids to NPS Barryville
Light traffic on a cloudy day in the 70's. River was at 3.3 ft

Wed May 26 – Training by NCSP/NPS for livery staff. Included the river safety talk with emphasis on encouraging PFD wearing. To date, the livery performance on this has been erratic.

Sat May 29 – Some 15 volunteers ran 3 patrols: Skinners, TMR to Zane Grey and Staircase to Fireman's beach without any major problems. River at 3 ft, temp in 80's

Sun May 30 – Twenty NCSP members made 3 patrols: Skinners, Cedar/ Shohola and Staircase to Fireman's Beach. Note: The Port Jervis bridge is one way. High volume of traffic, PFD wear is spotty, water at 3 ft, temps in mid 70's

Mon May 31 – Sunny day in the 80's water at 2.9 ft, light river traffic. Seven members patrolled at Skinners and through Cedar & Shohola rapids. A fine turnout of members, reminders to the public about wearing of PFD was usually well received.

Sat June 5 – Nine volunteers formed 2 patrols: Skinners & Cedar/Shohola.
Skill Drills were held on In Water Mobility techniques, lead both days by Kevin Reish, Bill Weber and Dick Rhodes. Some 8 NPS persons participated each day as well as NCSP members.
Temps in the 80's and 2.9 ft water was conducive to practice.

Sun June 6 – After Skill Drills, two members patrolled from Staircase to Fireman's Beach. Light traffic on a cloudy day.

Sat June 12 – Six members and a VIP guest ran 3 patrols (Skinners, Narrowsburg to Zane Grey and Cedar/Shohola. Water was 3.2 ft with rain in the afternoon.

Sun June 13 – Five members conducted 2 patrols: Cedar/Shohola and Staircase to Matamoras.

Sat June 19 – No report

Sun June 20 – Three volunteers patrolled Skinners. Six NCSP members supported the Delaware Sojourn for the 3 days it was on the Upper Delaware River

Weather was sunny with water levels at 3.2 ft

Patrol Logs 2010 (continued)

June 26 & 27 – Intro to Power Boat was conducted for 7 NCSP and 9 NPS personnel By Ranger Vince (see filed report)

Sat July 3 – Some 16 volunteers ran 4 patrols: Skinners, Cedar/Shohola, Staircase to Matamoras and Hankins to Damascus

Sun July 4 – Some 17 members ran 4 patrols: Skinners, Cedar/Shohola, Staircase to Matamoras and Hancock to Long Eddy. Medium river traffic

Mon July 5 – Some 8 NCSP members conducted 2 patrols: Cedar/Shohola and Skinners to Narrowsburg. Sunny days in the 90's

July 10 & 11 – SKILL DRILL in use of the rescue vest ably conducted by Donna Ford with support by Ranger Kevin Reish and Dick Rhodes. Some 17 NPS participated over the 2 days as well as good support by NCSP. After the Drill, 9 members ran 2 patrols: Cedar/Shohola and Staircase to Matamoras. Temp in 80's with water at 3.1 ft

Sat July 17 – Some 13 members ran 3 patrols: Skinners, Ten Mile River to Zane Grey and Cedar/Shohola.

Sat July 24 – Seven(two new) members ran 2 patrols: Cedar/ Shohola – busy; Long Eddy to Hankins - not busy. Temps in 90's, water at 3.3 ft

Sun, July 25 – Seven NCSP members (including two rookies) formed two patrols running Cedar/Shohola and Staircase to Matamoras. Light river traffic gave time for training in rescue scene management. River level was 3.3, temps in the 80's with rain arriving after noon, as predicted.

Skill Drills and Other Training Opportunities

The Skill Drills this year have been well attended and covered everything from Knots/Ropes to Combat Swimming and use of the Rescue Vest. August 7 & 8 will feature Foot Entrapment, Snag Tag and a Strainer Drill (if we have enough water).

In 2010, the Skill Drills have taken on a new importance as we cross train with NPS in water safety skills. In June, NPS conducted Intro to Power Boat Operation for 9 NCSP volunteers. NCSP & NPS co taught Skill Drills on both Sat & Sunday once a month to sharpen NCSP skills and to train NPS Interns and Law Enforcement. My thanks to Kevin Reish as well as Donna Ford, Dave Frei, Mike Webster and Bill Weber for their help as instructors.

As we adopt the ACA Swift Water Rescue standard curriculum, It is important that we know and follow those standards when teaching. This is doubly important as those we train (our volunteers, NPS, livery staff, camp staff, etc) need the assurance that their training meets ACA standards.

For those persons looking to gain ACA recognition as SWR Instructors, the elusive qualification has been experience. Teaching at a Skill Drill or a livery staff safety training program gains needed experience in addition to that achieved at an April SWR weekend.

Contact Dick or Ray if you want to gain some SWR teaching experience at the August 7 & 8 Skill Drills at Zane Grey from 9 - 11 am.

Dick Rhodes

Delaware River Sojourn 2010



Photo Courtesy Tim Burris

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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. 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.