

SHAC SEA SCOUT FLEET MEETING MINUTES 11/16/16

PRESENT: Wilson, Manning, Johnson, Noser, Leavitt, Wolford, Mowad, Knapp, Lipham, Sexton, Golmon, Start, Thrash (Todd and William), Bittner, Start, Crowl, Reynolds, Sunker, Vaughn, Gower, Hunn, Maas,

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Accepted as written.

SAFETY: VSE day is January **28; TWO Saturdays after SSA**. Bart requests boat names, locations and point of contact for the boat no later than a week before. After that Bart heads for the Hill Country and we thank him for the job he has done. Marcus had a 'lock out-tag out' safety admonition to disconnect batteries from battery operated tools to prevent accidental injuries. Skipper Lipham passed around the new battery operated flair which just became Coast Guard approved.

TRAINING: All Sea Scout training modules that take individual instruction are now available on line thanks to the efforts of Cassie, George and others. George distributed a handout listing the proposed Power Squadron courses for 2017.

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY: Facebook was flooded with pictures and glowing reports after Safety at Sea. There was lots of deserved praise for the event from all around the table as all said their Scouts had a great time.

BOATS AND GEAR: Marcus had a tale of frustration in finding the right size trailer jack wheel from a choice of closely sized diameters. A Laser was up for donation by the Power Squadrons' Doug Stephenson and may have been quickly snatched up by Ship 1701. **LATE BREAKING NEWS** A Sunfish is up for donation from Rick Heestand (formerly of Ship 502 if it's the same Rick). Contact Marcus for details

PROGRAM:

SEA SCOUT ACADEMY: January 14-16. The Boarding Manual is attached although there might be a tweak or two. Registration link should be up in a week or so. If you have a youth who wants to be on the SEAL Preparation track, they should have already reserved a spot with Skipper Freas. There are 24 spots on the "Been There Done That" track to spend a day on the barque Elissa. Others on the 'BTDT' track can assist with the Apprentice and Ordinary tracks which will be done on a format similar to "The Amazing Race." I didn't see the Double Knot registration link up yet, but here is the BAC info link: <http://www.bacbsa.org/ssbg/events-2017/sea-scout-academy-2017/59198>

OTHER BUSINESS:

NATIONAL JAMBOREE: Skipper Sunker answered questions and distributed hand-outs on basic Jamboree facts and joining the Sea Scout contingent to the Jamboree.

NATIONAL MEETING. Youth membership has been declining steadily with a nationwide average loss of eleven percent last year. A drive is underway for each Ship to recruit one or two new members by years end and longer range strategies are being assessed. FOTSS is sponsoring a nationwide contest for the year-end goal. For Southern Region, new Southern Region Commodore TW Cook has recruited a staff of area Commodores to help existing and new Ships maintain strength and membership. There is a goal of 40 new Ships by the end of 2017. There are 88 Ships in Southern Region with 19 of them in SHAC. On the program side there will be an elective track which will include Scouting Service (i.e. service to other BSA units) as an advancement portion.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Area Three Commodore Art Mowad is working from Beaumont to San Antonio to assess the needs of new and old Ships in the Area. Mentors may be needed to help guide new Ships and Skipper Peter Cushman has already been recruited. On the youth side, a 'lone Scout' program will be started which will make it possible for a youth in an area where there are no Ships to join a distant Ship and take part in their program and Long Cruises.

2017 GOALS: I passed out copies of our 2016 goals to spur some thought prior to next month's potluck dinner and goal setting meeting.

ROUNDTABLE: December 10 is the annual Christmas Boat Parade. Ship 846 is planning on making a weekend out of it. Sharon Reynolds past out cards for a marine mechanic. It was announced that the 2017 Powder Horn is nearly full already. Ship 1701 is participating in their District Camporee and Todd Thrash suggested a "Camporee at Sea" as a way to introduce Boy Scouts to Sea Scouting.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MINUTE:

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS: I met on Monday November 14 with Harris County Parks Special Projects Commissioner Mike Cade with a four phase detailed preliminary estimate and project sketch of a proposed Sea Scout work, meeting and paddle sports facility at Bay Area Park to take the place of the Sylvan Beach storage facility.

MEETING ADJOURNED: At 2117 until 1900 December 21 at the Scout office.

"I have opinions myself – strong opinions- but I don't always agree with them."
George H.W. Bush

"A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done." Dwight D. Eisenhower