

SHAC Fleet Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2015

Present: Ron Sunker, David Gower, Bill Hunn, Peter Cushman, Eloy Valdez, Andrew Houghton, David Noser, Cassie Johnson, Richard Lipham, Lynn McKee, Stan Gordon, Bryan Talley, Bridgette Talley, Marcus Sexton, Gordon Start, Barton Bennet, George Crowl

Safety: Bart was not with us, so Andrew Houghton reminded us that school has started. Remember speed limits and watch out for the big yellow buses.

Training:

- Thank you to Ship 1659 for conducting SSALBT for their new leaders.
- Seabadge is overbooked, but we are trying to schedule one a year out from September to accommodate the waiting list.
- Seabadge curriculum is currently being reviewed by Bob Sirhal's committee. Four hours of instruction are being added.

Marketing and Publicity:

- Please take a minute to look at the new websites that are coming out of the national council:
 - <http://scoutingwire.org>
 - <https://www.scoutbook.com>

Boats and Gear:

- Marcus told us of a small boat junkyard at Lake Livingston. The owner says the boats have sails, motors, and equipment. If you are interested, contact Marcus and he'll send you contact information.
- Andrew Houghton offered two Laser hulls, but there is only one mast. There are plenty of sails if you are interested.

Fall Regatta: On October 17 bring your own boats and bring your own lunch for fun on the water. If there are UIL Band conflicts, October 24 is our backup date.

Minto: I checked with T.W. He sent a list of events that needed warm bodies to run them. I have sent him the names of people who have helped out in the past. We all should be hearing something soon. It's going to be great fun, so get your crews registered.

Flotsam Flotilla: Everyone has the rules and knows that paint will not be allowed.

SHAC Sea Scout Strategic Plan: George and Eloy reviewed their discussions.

- We all agree that SSALBT must be taught in a classroom situation at all major events – Sea Scout Academy, Minto, and University of Scouting. We also need to decide what things we can add as offerings at University of Scouting.
- There are two fronts we need to attack: What is of interest to people outside of Sea Scouts, and what can we do to serve the members of the fleet and the people in our ships?
- There is a need to offer Seabadge more often. George suggested a 15 month cycle. The current Seabadge is overbooked with a waiting list, and Bay Area Council is looking for a date one year out. Basically the idea is that we should do this often enough so people can have the opportunity to take the course. We are better serving our population by offering the course more often.
- George questioned the need for marina classes like we had in the past or instruction on boat electrical work. Deck repair and other topics might be useful. We also need to regularly run Crisis Afloat. (George has composed a paper on training. He will send it to Dan for sharing.)
- David Gower questioned whether Crisis Afloat should be repeated every five years or so as a refresher course? Other questions arose. What kind of documentation do we have that we are an AVO. Is there a need for a card or certificate to show that we are AVOs. Some ships and insurance have different requirements for people to be qualified as AVO. Ron Sunker reminded us that one reason we don't have cards for this is what we require in SHAC is not official BSA requirements. The fleet committee developed the structure back when council owned the boats, but now boats are owned by ships or chartered partners. The burden of certifying an AVO has shifted to the unit. We have guidelines that come from National, Aquatics Supervision, and Guide to Safe Scouting. We have other council guidelines in the SHAC Skipper Manual specific to Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. (Resend this portion of the Skipper's Manual to folks.) The rationale from the past – We don't want to certify people because that adds a level of liability to us.
- Perhaps we need to do as BSA climbing instructors do. You get a card saying you've completed the class, but it doesn't certify you for anything.
- Eloy recommends teaching more Venturing courses such as Kodiak.

Long Cruise reports:

- Peter Cushman, Ship 208 – They began the summer with a mini-cruise. They took small boats to Galveston State Park for four days. A highlight was the Sea Center where they learned about the economic impact of fishing in our area. For long cruise they spent six days at Inks Lake with kayaks and small boats. They hooked up with Ship 1407 from

Capitol Area. They dove at Windy Point on Lake Travis – 12 kids, 9 adults. They also toured the Nimitz Museum in Kerrville.

- David Gower and Bill Hunn, Ship 88 – They spent time on Galveston Bay, but the majority of their youth spent the whole summer working at scout camps.
- Gordon Start, Ship 1701 – They are still building their program and working on boats.
- Andrew Houghton, Ship 502 – Andrew reported on his personal long cruise. A friend purchased a J46 in Rhode Island, so Andrew and his wife Linda helped bring her down to Chesapeake Bay. The trip involved legs into the Atlantic, Long Island Sound, and ultimately into Chesapeake Bay. Cassie and David reported on the rest of the ship's summer on the water. Early June saw kids repairing and sailing small boats, early July found David and Cassie with kids on the bay, and mid-July, Ship 502 helped bring Point Glass up from the San Bernard River to SSBG for the dedication of SSBG. The trip back to the San Bernard River was out in the Gulf, where we found out our youth have weak stomachs.
- Barton Bennet, Ship 1836 – Barton's youth hooked up with Bill Hunn for some fun on the bay. Half of his kids got to go to sailing camp at Lakewood Yacht Club. They have some boats now, and they are really fired up.
- George Crowl, Ship 1996 – 1996 joined 846 for their long cruise. SEAL report –Galveston Bay in July: The first day, *Sirly* began taking on water due to a failed water pump. The crew shifted to *Gremlin* for two days. They moved back to *Sirly*, but Rob Freas, the course director, was not happy with the youths' sail handling. They finally made it down to SSBG and back. The last day of the course, the crew participated in the rum race. *Sirly* came in third overall and was first in her class. The SEAL class also toured a sail loft. They were given a souvenir mini-sail. The sailmaker's crew came onboard *Sirly* for the rum race to handle the spinnaker. Everybody passed both exams. The kids were very well prepared. George will be happy to help any Skipper and youth to make sure they are well prepared for SEAL next summer. It was a good course and everybody passed, The youth: 2 from Dallas, Ship 1000; 1 from Capitol Area, Ship 911; 1 from North Carolina; 1 from Connecticut ;and 1 from Ship 1942, Virginia.
- Richard Lipham, Ship 846 – The ship had to sail Plan B due to transmission problems, so they worked out of Watergate Yacht Club and Lakewood Yacht Club. During the event, he got the transmission fixed. Eight kids and five adults berthed at WYC. They did some small boats sailing, big boat sailing, and went to Bank Sails for a tour of sail loft. Note: Bank Sails gives Sea Scouts at 20% discount. They went to Schlitterbahn and Sea Wolf Park. Wednesday night watched the races. Kids had a good time. Valuable lessons learned: Poked a hole in a boat with a cleat, and burned up bearings in a trailer on the way back.

- Bryan Tally, Ship 1659 – They celebrated their 10 year anniversary with a 12 boat long cruise. They visited Bank Sails and did some splicing at West Marine with Nick Blackerby. They sailed and motored to Sea Scout Base Galveston and conducted a repair underway on a turnbuckle. They had a great time at SSB. They got great pictures and movies which are posted on the SSS Minnow Facebook page. They had over 25 people over the week on the water.

USPS Piloting Course: At this moment there are 17 or 18 signed up. Eloy is trying to make room for 30 in the course, but they may have to limit the course to 20. If you have kids or adults that want to take the course, please contact George Crowl. The course will be taught at 3811 North Main, Baytown, Texas, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. George is actively seeking a ratio instructor to assist when people are doing the exercises in the class - coordinates, plotting, 60 D Street. Dates for the course: August 30, September 27, October 25, November 22, December 20.

Training Aids: George has posted on his personal www.Crowl.org website lesson plans for advancement. They range from Apprentice to Quartermaster, and there are PowerPoints for most of the lessons for Apprentice and Ordinary. More are coming. The lessons are designed so you can give an introduction to a concept and then go out and do the hands-on parts. Look them over and share them with your Quartermaster candidates who need to do instruction, George welcomes your feedback and will update lessons regularly.

Aggie Cup: September 26

Fleet Boatswain applications are due to Dan NOW!

Roundtable:

- Ron Sunker – We are two years out from Jamboree, and he will be recruiting staff – youth and adults. Think about it for yourself and your youth.
- Peter Cushman – Looking forward to another good year.
- Eloy Valdez – Jimmy, a youth from Ship 208, worked at SSBG and was recognized as a favorite staffer. He is excited to be asked to come back. Jason Vick of Ship 846 was also on staff. They were the only staffers under 18. Raven Chapter and San Jacinto Chapter of OA combined to form a dance team at NOAC. They won the national championship doing the Eagle Dance. Several of the dancers are Sea Scouts.
- Gordon Start – The ship is sailing as much as we can in the *Rose* and the *Mariner*, but they are dealing with dead batteries, bad wiring, new paneling, charger, and having fun getting greasy and cruddy.

- Lynn McKee took a SS to Philmont and educated a lot of people. The chambrey uniform really got people's attention.
- Bryan Talley – The ship has many AVOs – 3 keys instructors, 3 for speed boats, 6 in training for speed and sail.
- Marcus Sexton – Kudos to 1659. He sailed with a green crew, but they set up their log and watches. The kids got them to Galveston, and on the way back they were a well-trimmed crew.

Executive minute: We did not have an executive present, so I will channel their thoughts for you. I am confident that if one had joined us, they would have thanked us profusely for our presence at the Venturing Summit. They would have pointed out that SHAC Sea Scouts continue to lead and inspire our youth. They would have congratulated Sharon Reynolds and Stephanie Pena for being awarded the Venturing Leadership Award. They would say they have been blessed to be our executives for the last three years, and they would have introduced our new professional team. Alas, the Popcorn Colonels were downstairs, but we are such a fine-tuned group, they trusted us to carry on.

Closing Comments: Thank you for a lovely meeting. I missed you while on the road this summer, and I'm glad to be home again. Our sweetest sailing days are right around the corner, so have some fun with the kids and I'll see you at Minto. In closing, Gandhi described you best,

“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”

Respectfully submitted:
Cassie Johnson, Ship 502