

SHAC Fleet Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2016
1930 Hours

Present: Debbie Vaughn, David Gower, John Maahs, Kevin Plante, Peter Cushman, Eloy Valdes, Bart Knapp, Stan Smith, Richard Lipham, Lynn McKee, Eric Bittner, Gordon Start, Barton Bennett, George Crowl, Cassie Johnson, David Noser, Richard Grimes

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting were approved.
2. Additions to the Roster:
 - Nancy Golmon's email address is nancygolmon@gmail.com
 - Richard Grimes, grimes1110@att.net, 205-706-5228, Ship 1836
 - Bart Knapp has an email change which may be Ndanarcom@comcast.com
 - Chris Hogue, Sea Scout Executive, christopher.hogue@scouting.org
 - Kevin Ready, Sea Scout Executive, kevin.ready@scouting.org
3. Committee Reports
 - Safety-January 23 VSE's: Bart and his crew from the flotilla inspected and passed three vessels at the Baytown marina, Defiant and Pywacket at LYC; Envie and Scout at WYC; the John B, Altair's and ship 1836's vessels, Da Capo and It'll Do (after removing the wasps to fix the bow lights) at South Shore. Peter Cushman observed of our "legal fleet" that "floatin's one thing and runnin's another. Bart reminded us that for the future, everything on the left side of the form is a must have. (Google VSC and print the form. A good program for the youth is to have them conduct the pre-survey.) Richard Lipham was told he was required to have day shapes on his vessel. This was an error. Day shapes are required for vessels of 71' feet.
 - Training University of Scouting February 13: The format for University of Scouting was changed this year, and courses like SSALBT are to be taught in the districts. University of Scouting will be for enrichment and information. There were two one hour sessions for Sea Scouts that were covered by Neal Farmer from Ship 502. If adults in your ship need SSALBT, notify Cassie. There are many qualified instructors in the fleet, and we will get you trained promptly.
 - Marketing and Publicity: Cassie asked if everyone had gotten the press release regarding Sea Scout independence. David Gower questioned what this means for our future, and the general consensus is greater visibility and inclusion at all levels of BSA. (More on marketing under Scout Fair.)

Eric Bittner brought up the lack of Sea Scout presence in Wood Badge. He suggested donating a Ship 1 flag to the SHAC Wood Badge folks. David Noser has a flag.

- Boats and Gear:
 - George Crowl has a 25'10" McGregor that is up for adoption. It is a water ballast vessel that carries and sleeps six. It is trailerable and Ship 1996 is willing to pass it on to another ship. Contact George if you are interested.
 - Bart Knapp reported there's a 1987 Catalina 22 is available at Lake Conroe. It has a trailer that will need some work, and it does not have a motor. Contact Tim Bulling at 832-771-7486.
 - Bart also reported there's a Kittywake 23' available from the South Shore Sailing Adventure. It will need a bit of work. Contact Lucy Newman.

4. Program Events

- Sail Daze, May 14: Peter Cushman has confirmation that May 14 is a go with Houston Yacht Club. Our professionals will help us with a publicity push to Sea Scouts, Venturers and Boy Scouts over 14. Flyers will be printed (Thank you Gordon and Exxon Mobil) to be passed out at Scout Fair. Cost will be \$10.00 to cover the cost of the porta-potty, food and a patch (Baden-Powell, the pirate!)
- Scout Fair, April 16: Debbie Vaughn shared that the theme for this year is Scouting Takes Flight. The Sea Scout sub-theme is to be Sails Are Our Wings. A few ideas were tossed about – Bernoulli's Principle, sailing wing on wing. (This thought just in – what about flags. They fly. We can teach how to tell wind speed by how the flag is flying (Beaufort's Wind Scale). What about time? Time flies. We can teach bell time or military time.) Get your ideas to Debbie. Also, register your ship on the SHAC website. Don't forget to request electricity if you need it.

5. Other Business

- Sea Scout Resolution – Put it on the calendar. February 10 – Sea Scout Independence Day. Debbie questioned how this is going to impact advancement and awards. Cassie shared Charlie Wurster's article to be included in the March Advancement News. Sea Scouts will always be able to earn Ranger, Quest and Trust awards. The Venturing Leadership Award will be available for us through this year. There is talk of a universal leadership award that would be given to Sea Scouts, Explorers and Venturing. If this doesn't happen, there will be a Sea Scout specific leadership award. Sea Scouts have until the end of the year to complete Venturing advancement. If they choose to pursue Venturing advancement, they are encouraged to multiple as a Sea Scout and a Venturer.
- On Line Meeting Discussion:
 - Pros – It went as well as every other online meeting any of us have ever participated in. It will be a useful tool for busy summer months and the December meeting

- Cons – It was questioned whether we need a video conference. The general consensus was a teleconference would be easier, we would be able to hear better, and Eloy would be able to move around (don't ask!)
- For the future – If we continue with the video conference, we need a tutorial session for the techno-peasants among us. It was suggested that we introduce ourselves before speaking, and several alternatives were suggested. Talk to Lynn McKee about WebX, Google Hangouts is free but limits the number of participants, and our professionals highly recommend UberConference, another free application.
- Fleet Manual appendix update – George asked that we send our recommended vendor information to him within the next ten days so we can get our Preferred Vendor List out to the fleet. George also reviewed safety, area sailing and training requirements for fleet AVOs. (Note: the checklist is based on current advancement. It will be updated to reflect new advancement changes with the manual comes out.)

6. Roundtable Final Say:

- George: Ship 1996 needs a few Sea Scout Pocket Reference Books if you have any to spare. He will share the digital format if you need it.
- Peter Cushman's adults are working on a similar pocket guide for recording advancement which led to a discussion of Troopmaster software. It does have Sea Scout advancement record keeping capability, now.
- Richard Lipham reminded everyone about the Spring Break Long Cruise. Contact him or George if you have interested youth.
- It was at this point that Eloy shared his dilemma with the video conference.
- Bart: This is his last month as Skipper of Ship 777. Nancy Golmon will be stepping up as Skipper.
- Debbie: Matt Miller has been accepted at Texas A & M Galveston.
- Gordon and Eric: Their ship will be teaching the class portion of the Sailing Merit Badge at the Aquilla District's Merit Badge Fair on February 27. The on-the-water portion will be done over spring break.
- Peter's kids are "fired and wired." They will be doing a presentation to Exxon annuitants at noon on March 16.
- Kevin: The ship is suffering from Senioritis. Prom is coming up and it's hard to herd the cats. They did get Jenny B out of the water for a bottom job. We are invited to their next Texas Navy reenactment on March 26 at the Republic of Texas Plaza on Garth Road in Baytown.
- David Gower questioned whether University of Scouting is the proper venue to talk to Scout leaders about Sea Scouts. He also proposed that we have a live streaming video at Scout Fair of someone's ship out sailing

to show kids how much fun we have. (Everyone want to be the one sailing.)

- John Maahs: Bab Kahak gave him lots of goodies to share – line, first aid kits, etc.

7. Venturing Executive’s Minute: Chris Hogue shared that the council is excited about the future of Sea Scouts, and that he and Kevin are glad to be back with us.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1107.

When you walk down the hall on the lower floor of the BSA offices in Irving, the BSA Core Values are hung on the I-beams that support the floors above. I’m excited that we are a stand-alone program, but I’m even more excited that we will be known and recognized by the entire BSA family. As part of the family, here are your core values:

Think Strategically - Act Boldly
Practice Authentic Leadership
Assume the Best in Each Other
Live and Honor the Oath and Law
Impact Youth as One Family, One BSA
Act in the Greater Interest