

**Minutes of the Sea Scout Fleet Meeting
18 May 2016**

Meeting chair – Richard Lipham, Dan Wilson was sick. Meeting attendance was passed around, Richard should have it and be able to fill this part in.

Minutes of April 20 were previously sent out, and were approved.
No additional topics for the agenda were identified.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Bart was not present.

Training – Cassie was represented by George Crowl. Sea Badge at SSBG in the fall still has a few slots open.

Training and Advancement Changes –

1. Members were reminded that the new 2016 advancement requirements are in effect now, and skippers should be moving their youth to the new requirements as they finish their current rank. The new requirements are on seascout.org under Advancement Central.
2. SSALBT is available on-line now. In addition, for those who prefer a live instructor, there are many qualified instructors in SHAC to conduct live training. Seabadge Underway will undergo a re-purposing in the next year or so to concentrate on how to guide Sea Scouts through Able and Quartermaster.
3. George Crowl has been appointed to chair the writing of a new course, Introduction to On-Water Leadership Skills, targeted at new leaders preparing to teach Apprentice and Ordinary advancement skills. He asked for volunteers to help, and got five.

Marketing and Publicity – No report

Boats and Gear – Marcus – No new boats. He ran into a transmission problem he will tell you about if you are interested.

Program Events:

Minto, Sep 9-11, at Lost Pines. Boarding Manual this summer, Flotsam Flotilla rules about six weeks prior.

Safety At Sea, Nov 5 (one day) at USCG Base Galveston, with them in charge. Galveston Council hosted, probably start about 0800.

Other Business:

Sylvan Beach Facility – Barton Bennett is our Go-To person for all issues there. He has identified the owners of all but one boat there. S24 has two boats that need to be removed or renovated, otherwise the county will remove them for him. There is a stash of good life jackets. There is one tool box for S17, which is no longer active. If you want to use the facility, see Barton.

Sail Daze – Kudos to Peter Cushman for a well-organized event. Thank you! We had one case where a Scout was swimming underwater outside the swimming area and was nearly run over by a boat coming in, who obviously could not see him. One of the managers of the Wuss Bay area came by at the end of the event and complimented us all (through Nancy Golman) for the

way we took care of the area both last year and this year. "Scouts leave things better than they find them." Sail Daze photos were posted on the fleet Facebook page.

Flare demonstration issue – David Gower supervised a flare exercise at Powderhorn a couple weekends ago. Richard Lipham was directly supervising a participant when a flare launched, malfunctioned, reversed direction after about four feet, and barely missed some staff and participants. No one was hurt, it was a mechanical malfunction. David provided a report to attach to the lesson plan, and information for PH staff and director. He was asked if he filed a Near Miss Report, he did not, he did not know if the PH staff did. Reminder, should some incident like that occur on a Sea Scout outing, call the council, get and fill out a Near Miss Report. Those help identify safety issues.

Southern Region Youth Quarterdeck – was not discussed, but nominations are needed NOW, selections start in about two days.

On-line Meeting Recap – meeting was well received. No major issues. It may be possible to stream the fleet meeting to Facebook live, Richard will look into that for the future.

A request was made to reconstitute the Fleet Quarterdeck. It was pointed out we have no job description for the Fleet Boatswain. The current boatswain is willing to help in any way she can.

Around the Table:

USPS Seamanship course this summer, 1300-1700, June 17, July 10, July 24, August 7th. Not specifically for Sea Scouts, but Sea Scouts welcome. Cost \$35 for Sea Scouts, + \$63 for materials. Sign up on the HoustonSPS web site. Let George Crawl know if there is interest in a fall Piloting class on weekends.

S1836 has a "new" trawler, "mini-Point Glass" available for fleet program. They want Bridge of Honor scripts and loaner landship materials, actual help by experienced people. "Landship in a bag" is available from last Seabadge.

S1836 requested information on how to set up a 501©(3) which led to an extensive discussion. Ship 1996 has a copy of their successful IRS paperwork. Warnings were issued against relying on corporate lawyers with little experience in non-profit matters. Do not expect to be able to have "cookie-cutter" bylaws. There are pitfalls to the 501©(3) process.

Sea Scout Executive's minute – Chris Hogue introduced _____ who has joined the team of four trying to keep track of us. Chris mentioned that this is the last year the Sea Scouts can earn the VLA, and the deadline is as soon as June 1.