Minutes - VAF Meeting Dec. 4, 2012

OPENING – 7:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Alex Gazaleh	OPE Co/Crew-Grnwd	John Stalker	Valley Highlands-Carl Pl/AC
Alvin Cluff-Clyburne	2nd Russell	Kate Harris	114th Ottawa
Andrew Peverly	8th Orleans	Lynda Byce	23rd Nepean
Andrew Ralph	RARC	Mary Hagerman	1st Osgoode
Bill Bowman	1st Nepean	Melanie Gladwin	1st Kanata
Bob Murphy	25th Nepean	Paul Young D?	1st Stittsville
Chuck Fraser	1st Glen Cairn	Peter Smith	1st Kanata
Cyndy Courtland	Carleton Place	Phil Edens	VCSA/VCSC
Doug Proud	1st Greenwood	Ray Renton	1st Dunrobin
Ian Tait	123rd Nepean	Rod Wilson	1st Manotick
Jan Stodola	7th Kanata	Sandra Redshaw	3rd Kanata
Jane Stallabrass	123rd Nepean	Sean Freill	Nepean Rover Crew
John Dougherty	1st Rockland	Sue Robertson	VCSA-HARovers

PAST ACTIVITIES:

- ***Remembrance Day (Phil Eden and Sue):***
  - 50 plus youth in attendance handing out poppies and programs
  - 10 to 12 youth from Service Alliance
  - Youth laid a wreath on behalf of Scouts Canada
- ***LaserQuest (Andrew):***
  - 67 participants and all had a good time
  - Planning has started for next event on Saturday, 23 March 2013 (priority will be given to those that didn't attend in Dec, starting with those that were on waiting list for Dec)
- ***Advanced Wilderness First Aid (Doug Proud):***
    - 2 adults and 5 youth attended this session
    - there was a session held in spring as well and question was asked about having only one annual session – what number of students is required as a minimum (i.e. is 7 participants enough to run a session)
    - There may be interest in Wilderness First Responder Course from those that took this training
- ***Annual General Meeting (Phil Eden):***
  - Service Alliance provided support to the meeting coordinators

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- ***Adirondack Winter Adventure (Sandra Redshaw):***
  - Still openings for registration on VAF web page
  - First two weekends filling fast
  - Six groups have registered, ranging in size from 6 to 12 participants
  - Discussion ensued around the six leader kits that are being held by Alan Yates (see suspension notes in "Other Business" below)

        - It was not clear whether or not these kits were owned by VAF or Alan
        - Contents of the kits was discussed and plans were made to put together new kits if current kits were actually owned by Alan and he wanted to keep them
            - A motion was put forth by Ray Renton to either reimburse Alan for the kits or purchase new ones up to a max cost of $300, motion was seconded by Phil Eden, all voted in favour, motion was carried
            - Subsequent checking verified that VAF owned the kits already so no new spending is required
    - Discussion around purchase of snowshoes and bags (previously Alan was looking at getting these with 50% discount from his sources)
        - John Stalker offered to check with MSR on what kind of deal we could get for the 9 pairs of snowshoes, and would check with MEC to see what deal we could get on 6 bags, if we could not get a deal through Alan's contacts
        - VAF Chairman (Cal) was to email Alan and ensure all VAF equipment was returned and to ask if we could get contacts to purchase equipment at good discount (this was done but no response back from Alan)
- ***Scuba (Chuck):***
    - 33 participants - 2 sessions being held (Tuesday and Wednesday evening)
    - Participants up from last session where 18 participated
    - Had to turn away a couple of groups
    - Dive Group finds it difficult at this time of year (close to Christmas) to run sessions
    - Chuck is purchasing crests for those that participate in the scuba session and has offered crests to those that participated last year (if you want a crest let Chuck know)
    - Chuck will not be organizing any additional scuba sessions this year but others are welcome to arrange additional sessions
- ***Winter Outdoor Skills (Chuck):***
    - Currently 11 registered, about half are youth members
    - Indoor session will take place on Saturday, 15 Dec 2012
    - Outdoor session on weekend of 12 to 13 Jan 2013
- ***Food Drive at Ottawa 67's Game (John Dougherty):***
    - Sunday, 24 Feb 2013 – 2pm game
    - Tickets cost $11.30 (including tax)
    - Over 500 tickets are reserved for Scouts (groups can sell tickets as a fundraiser for up to $15 each, or just at cost as an activity)
    - To get tickets, contact Calvin at Ottawa 67's (mention you are with Scouts)
    - A T-shirt (donated by Rod) will be presented to the Ottawa Food Drive (with signatures from scouting youth) to add to the T-shirts already displayed by other volunteer groups
    - Info on this event will go out in next couple of weeks
    - A photo shoot is taking place tomorrow with Scouting youth and Ottawa 67's players to promote the event

REPORTS:

JC: Alex and Katy

- Nov event – hike at Jack Pine Trail
    - Small turnout but all that participated had fun
- Dec event – dance in tent room at Scouts HQ
    - 15 Dec 2012, 7 to 10:30pm

    - Cost is $10 at the door
    - Bring a friend event – youth are responsible for any friends brought (must RSVP with number attending)
    - Youth cannot leave building and re-enter dance
- Winter Camp (1-3 Feb 2013) – Camp Wolsey
    - Star Wars theme
    - Cost $50/person
    - Groups need to bring hotdogs and buns to feed themselves and enough breakfast to feed their own group plus 2 additional persons (for each morning)
    - Registration forms are due on or before 10 Jan 2013
- Attendance at meeting – 57 youth, 82% in uniform
- Next JC Meeting 8th Jan 2013

Service Alliance: Marc Couturier

- ***Winterlude:***
    - Registration info and forms to volunteer is on website
    - Scouts have 3rd weekend (Family Day) – Friday to Monday
    - Participants will get radio training to have better communications protocol
- ***New Voyageur Council Youth Commissioner:***
    - Matt Dowdy is the new VC Youth Commissioner

Training and Development:

- ***First Aid (Linda Byce):***
    - Info posted on website
    - Dates and location:
        - 24/25 Nov – had 18 participants
        - 01/02 Dec – had 19 participants
        - Richmond Library – 09 Dec (Recertification training being held)
    - Any group that wants to organize another location or date will need facility to be available for two 9 hour days or four 4 hour evenings
    - Sessions require groups of 10 participants in order to run (max 18)
    - Need sufficient space to do practical exercises (2 sq. meters per person)
    - If any groups need training in French contact VAF Chair (vafchair@gmail.com)
    - A Youth course is scheduled for Mon-Tues of March break (Ontario break) – for 3rd and 4th year Scouts and Venturers (no younger Scouts because they are too young and don't get enough benefit from the training) - still space available

OTHER BUSINESS:

- ***Suspension of Alan Yates:***
    - Alan has been suspended from Scouts Canada and anybody relying on him for outing or event support will need to make alternate arrangements
    - Alan has been asked to return all equipment in his possession belonging to Scouts Canada (and specifically to VAF)
- ***Rover Moot (Alex):***
    - Voyageur Contingent Site now open for registration moot2013@scouts.ca (online registration is coming)
    - 75 countries registered already – many coming in with larger numbers than originally indicated

- Looking for Venturer age volunteers to assist with events here in Ottawa, also for positions at camp for various roles such as lifeguard (must be qualified)
    - Youth do not have to commit to all 10 days
    - Also need someone to setup and run ropes (e.g Christiann) and need belayers
    - Need volunteers to be "Greeters" at the airport
        1. Three to seven people every day from 1 to 7 Aug 2013
        2. Mainly will assist with directions and help move luggage
- Because the Rover Program in Canada is for youth up to and including 26 years of age, youth from Canada up to age 26 can register (other countries is up to age 25)
- The Moot Organizing Committee is looking for volunteers for the camp (International Service Team or ISTs).
    - Preference is to have at least 40 to 50 ISTs from Canada
    - ISTs must be over 25 years old

- ***Jamboree Pre-Camp OOS Request (Doug McKinnon):***
    - 13 May 2013 at Apple Hill (maybe because there is a conflict with another group)
    - Need volunteers to assist with camp (scouters, senior youth and OOS)
        - Email to Doug at doug.mckinnon@hp.com
    - OOS must complete FOCUS Course prior to CJ – Council will hold FOCUS Course in March
    - CJ already has a lot of Venturer and Rover aged OOS registered
- ***Proposed Rules for VAF Endorsement of Activities (Cal Clupp):***
    - Discussion of current rules took place and a few changes were recommended;
        - LaserQuest will not be a VAF Endorsed event as Rideau Area Rovers use it as a fundraiser and will look after their own profit/loss
        - Need to identify who organizes each event, which events have potential risk of financial loss and which do not. Those that do not present any financial risk (i.e. have no financial obligations) can be removed from the list (e.g. Whitewater).
        - For those events that have potential financial risk (i.e. organizers will have financial obligation regardless of event being cancelled or if event registration does not meet minimum numbers) the rules would need to be applied if organizers want VAF to "Endorse" the event.

OPEN DISCUSSION

A swiftwater course has not been run since 2007, may be something to consider for next year. Will be added to January Agenda for discussion.

Next meeting - January 8th 7:30 p.m.