

VPC Board Meeting Minutes
2/19/2014 at The Reservoir in Waterbury

Present: Paul Carlile, John Atherton, Tony Shaw, Ben Schott, Chris Weed, Alden Bird, Ryan McCall, Mike Mainer

To get things started: Ryan wants to know where Mike has been skiing. Mike won't say. Ryan says he already knows all of the good places to ski.

- Spring Potluck
 - Originally planned for March 30th, then moved to the 23rd (but there is a pool session that evening, and the WV trip will just be getting back)
 - So April 6th (Sunday after the NHL Race) would probably be the best bet. Tony will check with the church about rescheduling.
- Ryan's president letter went to about 800 people. A few folks asked not to be contacted again, but there was generally a good response.
- Finances (via email from Hugh)
 - Down to around \$1460. This does not include income from pool sessions
 - Pool session fees have come out to \$130 for the Berlin Pool sessions (Ryan) and \$675 (Chris).
- Bow and Stern
 - Alden is on it, but doesn't have any trip reports. Folks should add what they can, include a few ski days if you want
- Website updates
 - Need visible link to Novice Clinic page. Perhaps add some more dynamic content, like most recent message board posts, most recent photos, etc.
 - The new beta-version site is set up at a subdomain. Tony will forward this out to everyone. It uses a more modern content management system where every page has a unique ID number. Don't click the "Like Page on Facebook" button until the new website is live
 - Everyone should take a look through the new site and offer comments
- Pool Sessions - Burlington - Chris
 - 3 sessions so far, fairly good turnout of 11-12 people per session (need 13 to break even) (but not including the new memberships this generates).
 - Publicity hasn't been great. Ryan recommends a #huckyourmeat hashtag.
 - Tony: Maybe a "bring a friend and get some sort of discount" deal would help?
- Pool Sessions - Berlin/Montpelier - Ryan
 - Facility is nice... warm air, warm water, etc. *But* management has not been cooperative. They expect folks to be off the premises by no later than exactly 9:00, have been difficult to deal with, etc. They will charge something like an extra \$100 for leaving late, making a mess, etc.
 - Ryan thinks the best option is to cut pool sessions off at 8:30 or 8:40. The board agrees with this.

- It would be worth looking elsewhere for future pool sessions.
- There have been a few legitimate issues with boat cleanliness. We need to be diligent about making folks clean their boats before putting them in the pool. No float bags.
- Proposed membership chairperson
 - Nick would be willing, but he said he may not be around past summer.
 - Catherine Hull would be a good person to take this on. Ben will inquire.
- Trip planning meeting
 - Good start, there will be a few gaps though. It seems to be leaning towards harder stuff. Chris will let folks know what is needed. Need a Joe's Brook trip.
- NHL Race
 - Lots of cool prizes, including boating gear. Mountain Khakis is a continuing sponsor. Justin Crannell has a few sponsors lined up.
 - Town of Bristol has given the go-ahead. Course will be the same, insurance by ACA, Dartmouth will provide bibs but not a van or trailer. John Atherton can transport ramp from the UVM boathouse
 - VPC funding will likely go towards securing a shuttle vehicle.
- Novice clinic
 - June 7-8 - Chris is on this. Need to start advertising
- No level II clinic scheduled yet, should run it sometime after the 4th of July.
- SWR Clinic
 - Aim for the 3rd week in May. Ben will provide instruction, with the assistance of others as needed (like Will). Should cover simple stuff like rope practice, live bait, boat recovery. Typically held at the NBW Nature Center, but could go elsewhere as desired. Red Hen Bakery has hosted this in the past.
 - We should consider opening this up to more people than just trip leaders. Mike agrees these are skills everything should learn/practice.
- Class IV/Cricking clinic
 - This really needs to happen. It has been popular in the past and has drawn folks from as far away as CT. This doesn't require a ton of water.
 - Ryan will get in touch with AJ. Will Seegers and Ben Schott are also capable of running this.
- Other possible clinics
 - Elaine Campbell (from S VT) has expressed interest in running a playboating clinic.
 - Hugh and Ryan are going to put up a slalom course again. Hugh and some other local slalom boaters have interest in running a slalom clinic.
- Other things
 - Tony feels that energy is flagging. He said historically these have been good times to appeal to membership for support & involvement, and it may be worth doing this at the spring potluck.
 - Mike: There is a lot going on, with several release rivers under negotiation, several clinics, a creek race, etc. The VPC just needs to remain relevant

among the changing demographics of the sport and the internet. Chris says we need to focus on things you can't do elsewhere. (I think the concept is to focus on the VPC's Comparative advantages rather than their absolute advantages.)

- Paul: We should focus on "Giving the VT paddling community a voice".
- Next meeting: March 12th, 6:30 at the Bluestone in Waterbury.