

# Lake Gaston Water Safety Council

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2017

President Mike Klein welcomed everyone to the meeting.

We all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Klein offered the devotion.

John Cataldo passed the trailer schedule to the membership for volunteers to sign up for open venues. There was an immediate need for two workers for the Big Air Fair on July 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have the trailer there for at least the first part of the day.

A Buffet Dinner was enjoyed by all.

### **Program**

Mike introduced our speaker, Maj. Chris Huebner of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Maj. Huebner has a lot of background in boating, being a heavy boat operator in the army and being employed by NCWRC for 27 years. He is currently the Major of Administration. Major Huebner described the types of laws that affect boating:

1. The Code of Federal Regulations is the first level of laws and is a U.S. code. The Coast Guard works out of this U. S. code. This is not state law.
2. The North Carolina General Statutes are the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of law and are the main body of laws the Wildlife Resources Commission goes by. North Carolina has adopted the Federal Code by reference.
3. The North Carolina Administrative Code is the third level and contains all administrative rules, which are written to fully interpret statutes.
4. Ordinances passed by individual counties are the fourth level of laws.

Some laws supersede other laws. In each level, laws can be made more restrictive than the higher-level law. NCWRC provides feedback and expertise to legislators but doesn't spearhead laws, except in rare incidences.

Maj. Huebner went on to explain the processes of making no wake zones and making new laws:

1. No wake zones – The general statutes give NCWRC the ability to make a no wake zone. A public is held by the petitioning body to get community input. then NCWRC is sent to investigate and make a recommendation, then it goes to a 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing conducted by WRC which is held stat-wide, usually in the January timeframe, then to the rules committee of the legislature. This process takes 18 mos.

2. To make a law – say of changing the no wake distance, He suggested many groups must band together and present it to the legislature with one voice. This would involve more representatives. Statistics are needed and then often a tragedy has had to occur to back the law.

Maj. Huebner spoke about paddle sports and the need for regulation:

1. The overall number of incidents involving paddle sports is rising but this is probably because of the number of paddle boards, canoes, kayaks, etc. has increased.
2. Therefore, a statistic such as accident rate per hour is a good statistic to have.
3. There is a big paddle sport PAC that fights any regulation. This sport does not pay a registration fee on vessels. He suggested that because of the cost to provide service in investigating incidences that involve paddle vessels, this may be subject to change in the future.

**The May 2017 minutes** were sent electronically. There were no additions or corrections. Bruce Parizo made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

**2017 Budget and Financial report** was sent electronically. There were no additions or corrections. Jack Saunders reported that we've received a \$1500 donation from Dominion. Mary More made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Membership** – There were 39 members present.

**50/50** – Sharon Nold won the 50/50 drawing.

Mike has received 24 responses to our survey. It will be sent in the next LGA bulletin.

Doug Hughes made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Deschenes, Secretary

