

TROOP 824 NEWS

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

December/January 2002/3

Newsletter Schedule

By Mr. Eppestine

Hope everyone is having a great Holiday Season! I just wanted to mention here that this newsletter should serve as a "dual" issue for Dec/Jan. This is because we're so late publishing this month due mainly to lack of events to write about and because of a few late-breaking articles. Not a problem, but I just wanted you to know why if you wondered where your newsletter was for this month.

You might also note that since we're going to Webelos cabin campout Jan 3rd and then Advancement Cabin Campout Jan 24th, we might not have another newsletter until February. Hopefully, we'll be able to get back onto a more consistent schedule then. I would like to ask you Scouts to consider writing articles or taking pictures or submitting "one-liners" (or all of the above) for the newsletter for these next two events. There will also be an email distribution before Advancement Camp to let you know how to prepare for that. We've traditionally had an article from a senior Scout about this event *before* the event and we can still certainly get something like this distributed before the next formal newsletter. Now, a note about that from your Scoutmaster, and after that a note from your future Scoutmaster.

A Few Notes from the Scoutmaster About January Advancement Camp

By Mr. Fitzgibbons, Scoutmaster

Do you want to have a successful Advancement camp in January? Well here's a few suggestions. First, you must follow some guidelines. If you are not yet 1st Class then your focus should be on advancing to that next rank and this is a great opportunity to do that. The Tenderfoot thru 1st class requirements can be grouped into approximately 6 skill areas. The requirements for Tenderfoot thru 1st class will be *taught* and *reviewed* by the LC (that's the Leadership Corps, generally the guys up front during Troop meetings), but includes the Patrol leaders, Troop guides and SPL. It is the responsibility of the in-

dividual Scout to seek out and ask for help for the requirements he needs to finish up in order to advance to the next rank. He will be expected to learn the needed Scout skill, commit it to memory and then go to the Senior Patrol Leader and prove to him that he knows and understands what is stated in that particular requirement. If you were at summer camp and participated in the Hawk program then a lot of these requirement skills were taught there. Get into that book and go over the requirement checklist. If you have any questions ask your Senior Patrol leader.

If you are a 1st class Scout then it is time to start to working on merit badges for the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle. Keep in mind that you need a certain number of **Eagle** merit badges combined with merit badges of your choice for these ranks. You should be thinking now about which you are going to work on.

What do you need in order to start working on a merit badge? First you need to get a merit badge card from Mr. E (the Advancement chairman). Fill out the top 3 lines on each section of the card and then bring it to me (Mr. Fitz) and I will ask you a few questions about the merit badge you wish to work on and then I will probably sign it (rarely do I not sign one but I do like homemade chocolate chip cookies). You also need a merit badge counselor don't you? Our Troop has a lot of adults who have graciously volunteered their time and signed on as merit badge counselors. Check the published list (it's probably on the web site www.troop824-gslac.org) and see which Troop adult is a counselor for the merit badge you want to work on. Now here comes the part where you get to work on your communication skills. Just because the Troop has a registered counselor does not mean that he or she is automatically going to attend Advancement camp but it is up you to make contact with the counselor and very politely ask if they are able to join us at Swift Explorer base for either the entire weekend or some portion of it. Sometimes the merit badge counselor will choose to come down just for the day on Saturday and work with you. If there is going to be a group of Scouts working on the same merit badge then each Scout should make contact with the counselor. Now keep this in mind, a number of our registered merit badge counselors who

have been in the Troop for a long time and whose sons who were in the Troop but are now off to college may not be renewing their status as a registered merit badge counselor. If you have any questions, just ask any of the Troops adult Leaders.

Don't procrastinate, start planning now and good luck.

A Challenge to All PL's & Patrols

By Mr. Dundon, Ass't Scoutmaster

... to make meals more interesting. I know that donuts and pop tarts are easy with little to no cleanup, but that's not the Scouting way. Meals don't have to be *Emeril* style to be good. The One-Pot meals are easy, with only one pot to clean. Chili, stew, and spaghetti are just a few examples of "one pot" meals you can make.

If you have questions, there are several leaders that like to cook. Let's see... and there is always "Mom". I know you like what she cooks. Perhaps an easy one-pot family favorite recipe would be a good idea for a camp-out too. The internet is also a good source and there are several sites that have Dutch oven cooking tips. Some I would like to try.

So, let's try to do more cooking on the Spring Camporee, Summer Advancement Camp, and Fall PACAO... events where we typically have Patrol Method cooking.

MHS Band Fund-Raiser

By Mrs. Eppestine

A number of our scouts are active in music programs in their schools. The Mehlville High School Band will be sponsoring a *David Copperfield* style magic show by Master Magician Mr. Terry Richison. It's entitled *It's Magic! Where Dreams Become Reality!* And will be held on the evenings of February 7 & 8, 2003, at Rickman Auditorium in Arnold. Tickets will be \$10 each, with a group rate of \$9 each for 15 or more. There will be a limited number of backstage tours available for groups. If you or your group are interested in attending, contact Mrs. Eppestine (487-6341) with any questions and which night you would prefer, how many, etc. If there is enough interest, she will arrange the tour.

In addition, they are selling ads for the show's program, ranging in price from \$35 (business card size) to \$100 (full page). Contact Mrs. Eppestine or your favorite MHS band member for more info on this. Ads are due on January 6th.

Attention all Members of Troop 824

By David Bender SPL

The last few months have revealed a large flaw in the workings of troop 824, skills. This will probably not be a big surprise to you Scouts, since it has been brought to my attention that several scouts, during their scoutmaster's conferences and boards of review have said that the worst part of troop 824 is the skills.

In an attempt to remedy this, the PLC has tried many different solutions. Some of these solutions include guest speakers, visual displays, and merit badges to broaden the range of available topics. None of these have worked, due either to the lack of participation from scouts or from the lack of usage by patrol leaders, causing me to ask troop members, scouts and adults, to bring forth ideas.

Anything, within reason, will be considered. The most popular choice, however, is to completely get rid of skill. This is not an option! We must have some sort of planned activity at the troop meetings. An activity in place of skill may be an alternative option.

Please e-mail me or tell me any ideas that you may have. Anything from skill ideas to fun games or activities is greatly appreciated. My e-mail address is benderDF@aol.com. Please use "Scouts-Skill Ideas" as the subject line to aid me in sorting through my mail. Feel free to contact me with anything you have.

Thanks for your input.

A Couple of Announcements

#1: Scoutmaster mentioned the following from Round-table

2003 University of Scouting

Where : Lindbergh High School, 4900 S. Lindbergh Ave.

When : Saturday, March 8, 2003, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Sessions for leaders of all levels

\$10 covers all day. For more info or questions, call council at 361-0600

#2: There's an upcoming Venture Scouts sponsored ski trip. It's soon, (2nd week in January) but I don't remember the date and time (8PM til 6AM)? Adult chaperones will be needed, if you're interested in helping or just going to ski and for more information, contact Bob Miller, 892-8249.



On the Bike-Hike (left to right): Anthony Rhodes, Mr. Schrenker, Jacob Haltemann, Mark Bender, Mr. Stadnik, Zack Haltemann, Mr. Chambers, A guide, Todd Stadnik, and Steven Backer. Mr. Rapp and perhaps another Scout (Bryan?) was also with this group, but are not pictured.



This is the Alton Lock and Dam (at least I think that's what it is). It might be interesting if someone were to explain to the troop what that is and how it works. Better yet, go on an event like this and find out for yourself.



Here are some intrepid bikers. Looks like they're taking a break and attending a tour. I remember some nature display pictures in the group of photos Anthony Rhodes gave me for the newsletter... thanks, Anthony.

The pictures on this page were from the recent ropes course event.



It looks like Mr. Dundon is either trying to sneak up on the enemy Army style or fell down while trying to tightrope walk.



OK guys, maybe standing at attention on this pole will teach you how to do it right.



Hey, where'd the landing craft go?
(remember the war movies, over the side on the netting to board the landing craft?)

This space is blank. It could be filled with your article, one liners, comments, jokes, cartoons, or photos. And if you write, it doesn't have to be perfect, Mr. E won't be giving you a grade. He can also help you make the article better. Give it a try. Maybe you're a writer and didn't even know it.

Troop 824 Upcoming Events

(You might consider printing out this page and taping it to the fridge or other appropriate spot)

Dec 23rd NO Troop Meeting

Dec 25th Christmas Day

Dec 30th NO Troop Meeting

Jan 3-5th Webelos Cabin Campout, Beaumont, Coordinators: John Dundon, Frank Efthim

Jan 6th Troop Meeting, WMS

Jan 13th Troop Meeting, WMS

Jan 16th Parent's Meeting, WMS

Jan 20th PLC, location to be announced

Jan 24-26th Advancement Cabin Campout, Swift Explorer Post (at S-F). Coordinators: Mr. Klages, Mr. Dunajcik, Mr. Schepers, Mr. Housman

Jan 27th Troop Meeting, WMS

Feb 3rd Troop Meeting, WMS

Feb 4th Pressurized Fuel Training, GT Roundtable

Feb 10th Troop Meeting, WMS

Feb 17th PLC, WMS

Feb 20th Parent's Meeting, WMS

Feb 21-23 Ft. Leonard Wood Encampment (note: Will replace Klondike Derby)

Feb 24th Banquet/COH, Concord Methodist Church

Please Note: Parents of younger Scouts should volunteer to shadow our veteran event coordinators so the "know how" for putting on events isn't lost.

Unless otherwise noted Troop meetings are held every Monday (3rd Mondays are PLC only) at 7 PM in the Washington Middle School (WMS) cafeteria or at Suson Park during Summer when school isn't in session.

Parents' meetings are now THIRD Thursday of the month at WMS Art Room (upstairs, through the gym to the far left corner) unless otherwise noted (Also at Suson Park in Summer).

Also, PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER: Scouts MUST be escorted into and out of the building by an adult. We must also insure that once they are on the parking lot, they are supervised until they have transportation. This is important! If we have another hallway discipline infraction, we will lose our meeting place at Washington Middle School.