

# Troop 824 News

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

February/March 2003

## Newsletter Schedule

By Mr. Eppestine

*\*\* Warning Scouts: Too much wordy adult-written content beyond this point. It would be appreciated if you'd make an attempt to read this stuff, but you probably should have a caffeinated drink handy \*\**

I had hoped to get more articles from you Scouts for the newsletter by now. I *have* had some submit pictures for the newsletter. I hope everyone understands that we can't use ALL of the pictures, there's just not enough room. We've got TONS of pictures of Webelos Cabin Campout, and Swift Advancement Camp. What we need is more articles.

Our most recent event (besides CoH) was the hike at Beaumont and Pete 'n me couldn't go, so I hope someone took some pictures... a few written thoughts and comments would be nice as well.

We do have a some nice articles from the adults this time around, and you will see these below. I might just remind you Scouts once again that this is YOUR newsletter and YOUR web site. The adults that are producing these things for the troop won't be around forever, and for the present, the adults shouldn't be expected to produce all the content too. End of lecture.

Among other things, I've reproduced here some words from our recent Court of Honor. Of note are two articles from Mr. Rapp. He has 'retired' as Committee Chairman, and Mr. Chambers will be replacing him. Mr. Rapp has become a 'TroopMaster' expert and the statistics below show that.

## State of the Troop

Address by Mr. Rapp at our recent Court of Honor

2002 was a very exciting & rewarding year (53 Scouts/243 awards) for Troop 824!

- several weekend campouts (Adirondacks & Spring Camporee)
- Webelos-cabin campout - held in 2003
- 3 hikes (Outpost and Horsethief Lake @ Medicine Mtn, and Greenrock Trail)
- a 50-mile bike hike to Alton, IL
- fishing derby
- horseback riding

- climbing tower
- Hi-Lo ropes courses
- CPR training
- Aviation Hangar tours
- Court of Honor BBQ
- Summer Camp at Medicine Mountain scout ranch in SD
- created our 2nd annual summer-camp video
- By-Laws updates (policy for scouts driving to troop-coordinated activities)
- implemented the Troop's website
- completed conversion to the TMME software
- transferred our charter to WMS

During this past year, there were 47 scheduled activities. These events covered 9 camping events combined with numerous other activities such as previously stated. Additionally, there were 5 service (troop & OA) projects, 4 Eagle projects (494 hrs), and 2 OA projects on the calendar.

Last year at this time, there were 51 registered scouts in the Troop. Five of those young men turned 18 during 2002 (a BSA-induced enrollment drop).

Currently, we have 49 registered scouts (2 transferred) & 72 adults. GSLAC is very impressed with our retention record, especially knowing that 4 of 5 (18 yrs) registered as adults. This is a tribute to our program.

Recognized at the 4 Courts of Honor held during this past year, the above scouts earned numerous advancements and awards:

- 58 (was 38 in 2001) Scouts attained rank advancements
- 9 Scouts attained the rank of Scout
- 15 Scouts attained the rank of Tenderfoot
- 10 Scouts attained the rank of 2nd-class
- 10 Scouts attained the rank of 1st-class
- 5 Scouts attained the rank of Star
- 5 Scouts attained the rank of Life
- 4 Scouts officially attained the rank of Eagle (three 18 yrs)
- 0 Scout earned the God & Country award
- 1 Scout unofficially earned the Bronze Eagle Palm
- 9 Certificates of completion for Hawk/Voyageur programs
- 191 (was 136 for 2001, 18 by our 18 yr olds) Merit badges (15 by our 18 yr olds)
- 37 Certificates of other program completion such as:
- 2 earned World Conservation
- Leave No Trace @ WMS
- 15 earned Mile Swim
- 5 attended JLTC

- White Buffalo (High Adventure) @ Medicine Mtn
- OA: 6 Ordeal and 2 Brotherhood
- 7 earned Totin' Chit
- 7 earned Firem'n Chit
- Adult training (e.g, Leader, Toasted Chit, Safe Swim, Youth Protection)

These accomplishments represent a lot of hard work and dedication.

Through a strong commitment by many adults, these scouts have had the opportunity to participate in camping, hiking, ropes courses, fishing, CPR training, aviation tours, horseback riding, etc.

At our recent CoH, Scouts received Individual History Reports with a summary of those achievements over the 4 CoH's held in 2002. That is just one of the reports available from the TMME software to which we transitioned this year. As we progressed thru that process, we acquired an unexpected gain. During updates to the Eagle Honor Roll, we cross-checked our records with those from GSLAC. To our discovery, there were four scouts [from the mid-1980's] not on our records who attained the Eagle rank. Their names are now on the web-site's Eagle Roster but are not engraved on the Eagle plaque and we wish to correct that. Through your support of this and other needs under "Friends of Troop 824", you can be part of more successes in our troop.

Our troop has been rechartered for 2003 (check out the article following this one). Through many hours of dedicated work, we did so electronically. By taking this step, we now are solely responsible for the accuracy of our troop records. It not only helps us but also removes a large workload from the GSLAC staff. Does anybody know the number of years we've been a chartered scout troop? (Hint: see CoH handout)

2003 promises to be another exciting year for Troop 824! In March & April, we expect to receive about 16 new scouts via the Webelos cross-over process. That will increase our troop membership and obviously, represents both growth and challenges.

As we look ahead, there are a lot of activities on the calendar with the following weekend events planned:

- Spring Camporee
- Fishing Derby
- Summer camp at S-F
- 2 advancement campouts
- Fall PACAO
- Shiloh & Taum-Sauk overnight hikes
- Cabin Campout with the Webelos

To supplement that, we have the following day activities planned:

- hikes
- Hi-Low ropes course & climbing tower
- Aviation Hangar tour
- CPR/Red-card training
- Good Turn Day
- Court of Honor BBQ
- Our Order of the Arrow members will be participating in the many OA activities – campouts, service projects, etc.

We have several scouts very near to achieving the Eagle rank, especially their Eagle projects for which they should seek volunteers within our Troop.

Thirty eight Scouts and Scouters in our Troop will be attending Philmont in 2003.

Before that 2-week period, Troop 824 will be participating in summer camp during the week of June 22nd, on the Hubeli campsite in Camp Gamble at the S-F Scout Ranch. And, we expect several scouts to attend JLTC.

In summary, Troop 824 had a very good year in 2002 and we look forward to an exciting 2003!

## Notes About Troop Rechartering from the Committee Chairman

By Mr. Rapp

Troop 824 has achieved "Top of the Arch/Quality Unit" recognition for 2003! Through the fine work of the troop leaders, we registered 49 scouts and 72 adults. More than two dozen leaders are dual-registered in the troop, the Venturing Crew, and/or the Cub Packs from Trautwein and Hagemann Elementary schools. And, we successfully transitioned our chartering organization to Washington Middle School where we meet weekly throughout the school year.

### What do we mean by troop rechartering?

This is the process every BSA unit must perform to officially register scouts and adults in the BSA. It is the basis for participation in troop events using BSA facilities and resources such as Beaumont and S-F Scout Camps, the earning of scout awards and recognition, and maintaining quality status in the BSA for our sponsoring organization: Washington Middle School-PTO.

### How often is it done?

All Scouting units perform rechartering annually. It is a multi-step process spanning a period of 9-10 weeks. Troop 824's charter renewal is due into Council in early January each year, so our rechartering "window" spans the Christmas and New Years holidays.

### What is the impact of not completing it on-time?

Troop 824 would not be able to continue functioning as an approved BSA scout unit. Also, we would lose our Quality Unit status with the Greater St. Louis Area Council.

### Who does it involve?

It involves each family in Troop 824. Because you accurately and quickly responded to the due dates, the troop's leaders did the entire process more easily.

### How is it performed?

The process begins in early November of each year and extends for a period of four weeks to collect the paperwork and fees. Then another five weeks for the troop leadership to coordinate with the Cub Packs and Venturing Crew associated with our troop. For 2003, we completed the paperwork completely electronically for the first time. We use a Council compatible software package called Troopmaster. This allowed our troop to greatly improve the accuracy as well as the time needed for the BSA to prepare our registration certificates (it's kind of like E-filing your taxes).

### Boy Scouts of America Membership Cards?

All Scouts and Scouters who were listed on the recharter roster will receive their BSA membership card from their primary unit. These will be distributed upon receipt from Council, probably in the March time frame. If you didn't know, you can use this card at many local camping supply outlets to receive a discount.

### Top of the Arch Patches?

Troop 824 earned the Top the Arch honor and will be allowed to purchase Top of the Arch patches. Upon receipt of the necessary paperwork, the troop will purchase and distribute these patches.

## Friends of Troop 824

### By Teresa Schrenker

At the February Court of Honor, Troop 824 traditionally makes a request for donations to help with expenses for the upcoming year. The cost to our troop for one scout for one year is around \$85, which includes training, activities, equipment, advancements. Since the troop does not assess annual fees, much of the money required is collected as a result of donations made at the annual CoH banquet. In fact, this year the donations are even more crucial since the troop no longer receives a donation from the phone book deliveries. If you would like to make a donation to the troop, you may send a check [or bring to a troop meeting] to the treasurer, Jim Lehn. The troop appreciates the donation of your time, but it also needs

your money to remain the quality unit that it has become.

## Another Aviation Tour

### By Mr. Rapp

Mr. Kinmartin has arranged yet another great "hanger tour" at an American Airlines maintenance hanger. This 3rd tour will be held on March 15th. Check out the Sign-Up sheet or see Mr. Kinmartin for details. Without repeating what we reported last time, here's a picture.

*And now, for something completely different. Neil Phipps (our*



*webmaster) got a message 'out of the blue' from a former Scout and Eagle (once an Eagle, always...). We got permission to reproduce it here for those that might be interested.*

## Message to Troop 824

### From Greg Beasecker, Eagle Scout, Troop 824

I stumbled across your web site while doing some research about my family. I was pleasantly surprised that when I entered my name I stumbled across my old Boy Scout Troop.

I was a member of Troop 824 from the late 1970's until the mid 1980's. I joined the troop right out of Pack 824 and to this day believe it was one of the best experiences in my life.

The adult leaders of the time were great in adopting me as one of their own. Back then leaders such as Mr. Kincaid, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Ives, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Guenther, Mr. Temper and more worked with me as well as the Leadership Corp.

They helped me learn many skills and gave me an opportunity to become a leader that I still can apply to life today.

Eventually I was able to serve in various positions such as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. I am still very proud of the Senior Patrol Leader position since it is a position that is voted on by the fellow troop members and I was elected to two terms. I am also very proud of the fact that I was able to help leverage what I had learned to help out Scouts when I was a member of the troop. It was even a better feeling to watch some of my friends and Scouts that I had worked with become the Senior Patrol Leaders of the future.

I am equally proud of being elected to the Order of the Arrow. Again this is a position that you are

voted into and one that you don't really realize what you are getting into until you are in that part of the organization. It is a great honor and well worth what you have to do to earn it.

I am most impressed by what Troop 824 is still doing.

The trips to Shiloh are very memorable in my mind since I am a Veteran Hiker of Shiloh thanks to the Troop. I wonder if you are all staying in the same big building with a bare concrete floor. For those of you who have not made it to the compass course yet, I guarantee you your compass skills will have to improve if you expect to find the correct monument since many of them are so close together and some of them always seemed to be buried under leaves. I wonder if they let you use GPS nowadays to figure it out?

It is also nice to see that the Troop is still doing treks down to Philmont. That is something that will last in your memories forever. To this day I still look at my pictures of the trip and recall the great time we had. Again, GPS would have been great back on our trip and saved us about 5 miles of hiking when one of our Scouts misread a compass reading.

I did not see how the Troop was doing at the Spring and Fall campouts out at Beaumont. I do remember our Troop flag being pretty heavy to carry from all the ribbons we won before I was in the troop and while I was in the troop. I hope it is heavier today or maybe you have to carry two or three flags to hold all the ribbons from over 30 years of Scouting tradition.

There are many other memorable moments that I enjoyed as a Scout of Troop 824, but the most important part is all the adults and friends that I met over the years and the positive effect that they had on my life. They played a large role in everything I was able to do in the Scouts and what led me to earn the greatest honor of all in earning my Eagle Scout award.

While the Eagle Scout badge is just a badge, what matters most is everything that goes into earning the badge. It is not very apparent at the time that you earn it, but as one goes on in life you realize how that work can influence your future.

## Today

I live in Dallas, Texas, married to Shelly and have a son named Garrett who will be 5 years old soon.

I have two nephews in the Boy Scouts. One is in Texas and just earned his Life badge and the other just joined the Scouts in Jackson, Missouri, in the last month. The nephew in Missouri last weekend did a snowboarding trip at Hidden Valley and is really enjoying his first few weeks in the Scouts. I am pretty hesitant to tell him that Troop 824 will be one of the Troops he has to compete against in the Spring and Fall campouts since he is pretty competitive and wants to try to outdo his Uncle. At the same time I hope my old Troop is pretty competitive and would want

to beat my nephew's Troop. For now I will keep it a secret from all parties what Troop I was part of and what Troop he is part of.

Currently I am a Managing Principal Consultant for Oracle Corporation. Prior to joining Oracle eight years ago I was a Financial Controller for a Clinical Information Systems company.

Since joining Oracle I have had the opportunity to work on and manage a large range of projects around the world. These included managing a \$5 million project for the biggest tax software preparation company, managing an \$8 million dollar project for one of the three biggest brick and mortar companies expansion onto the web, and a \$5 million major data storage device manufacturer implementation of the Oracle applications.

I have also worked on a project that involved the United Nations Food and Agriculture program in Rome, Italy and through that project developed some very good friends in Europe that I have maintained to this day.

Currently I am working on a project for the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Agency.

There are a lot of other neat things in my life, but I mostly am just impressed with what was going on in the current Troop 824 and hopefully all of its current members and future members can eventually realize how it contributes to their long term success.

Feel free to contact me at [gbeaseck@yahoo.com](mailto:gbeaseck@yahoo.com).

Greg

*Another Email note... was also a newspaper article and is/will be in Duffle Bag.*

Dear Fellow Scouters and Scouts,

Missouri State Representative Jim Avery has filed a bill in the Missouri House of Representatives that would authorize Specialty License Plates related to Scouting. The bill (HB 626) would authorize Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Girl Scout Gold Award License Plates in Missouri. (Eagle Scout Plates were passed last year.)

We have less than 3 months to get this bill through the Missouri House and Senate. With the concerted effort of the Scouting community from across the state we can push this bill all the way to the Governor for his signature.

**ACTION ITEM #2** (item #1 was getting the bill filed)

The next thing we need to do is email the Chairman of the House Transportation and Motor Vehicle Committee, Rep. Larry Crawford and ask him to please put House Bill 626 Scouting License Plates on his committee's calendar for a hearing. Click on the web page link below and then click on "Email Representative Crawford" to send him a quick note to let him know you support this bill: (if you intend to purchase plates be sure to let him know that as well, that means a lot!!!)

<http://www.geocities.com/moscoutplates/>

## actionitem2.html

Be sure to include your name and the name of your town so he can see this bill has statewide support.

For an explanation of how the program would work, check out the Missouri House of Representatives link to Missouri House Bill 626 Scouting License Plates:

<http://www.house.state.mo.us/bills03/bills/HB626.htm>

-or-

Link to Missouri Scouting Plates Web site:

<http://www.geocities.com/moscoutplates/campaign.html>

(this site includes a link to a St. Louis Newspaper article about the campaign as well)

Even if you don't think you would purchase plates we still need you to be involved. Remember that the proceeds from the bill will benefit our Councils here in Missouri, possibly bringing thousands of dollars each year to the councils' endowments.

Many people are concerned about following the instructions of unsolicited e-mails from strangers. Please feel free to confirm the legitimacy of this project by checking the Missouri House of Representatives Home Page.

Please get on board right away by completing Action Item #2 and forwarding this to other Scouters you know and encouraging them to take action as well.

Legislators have so many things on their plates, that a bill like this could easily get forgotten, like one did last session. If the entire scouting community from across the state can apply encouragement in the appropriate places we can see this bill pushed quickly through the legislature.

We will let you know when the bill is slated for a hearing so we can collectively encourage the committee members to vote for it.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,  
Michael O'Donnell  
Eagle Scout

## One Last Announcement

### Shiloh Hikes Date Set

Mr. & Mrs. Eppestine, Coordinating

If you didn't hear at a recent Troop meeting, the cabins have been reserved and the date has been set for the Shiloh Hikes. **November 6-8, 2003**

The Troop makes it a family event every two years. We travel to Shiloh, TN (near the Mississippi border in SW Tennessee) and hike the Shiloh civil war battlefield memorial park. If you do all six of the mandatory hikes, you'll receive a very impressive patch and certificate... the Veteran Hiker Award. You will also complete many of the requirements for the Hiking merit badge, and with just a little planning and extra effort you could also complete the American Heritage merit badge.

Without further blathering, we've reserved the usual cabins at Pickwick Landing State Park for the weekend of **November 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2003**. This is a Thursday,

Friday, and Saturday. We've checked and due to a teacher's conference, there will be no school on these days in November. This makes it a perfect opportunity to attend this terrific event. The whole family can come, and everyone can hike. Scouts must hike if you attend, but if you're an adult that doesn't want to hike, you could help with the support crews. It's really a nice event and we do this only every other year.

We'll have more about this in coming months. Mark your calendars now and save room on your schedule for this one. You really don't want to miss it.

## Final Thoughts

Now, finally, since we've just a bit of space left over, I'll place just a few pictures of recent events here. We'll try and arrange with Neil Phipps to post a much larger quantity of pictures on the web site. They will be easier to view and most likely will be of a better quality than what you would see here in the newsletter anyway.



# Troop 824 Upcoming Events

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

## March

- 3 Troop Meeting, WMS
- 10 Troop Meeting, WMS
- 15 Aviation Hanger Tour
- 17 PLC, WMS
- 20 Parent's Meeting, Trautwein Library
- 21 WEBLOS Crossover (for Trautwein)
- 24 Troop Meeting, WMS
- 29 Green Rock Trail Hike, Greensfelder Park, Philmont Practice Hike

## April

- 4 WEBLOS Crossover (for Hagemann)
- 7 Troop Meeting, WMS
- 12-13 Sam Baker Trail, Philmont Practice Hike, Overnight Hike
- 14 Troop Meeting, WMS
- 21 PLC, WMS
- 24 Parent's Meeting, WMS library
- 25-27 Spring Camporee, Beaumont
- 28 Troop Meeting, WMS

## May

- 2-4 Adult Leader Training, Beaumont
- 5 Climbing Tower, Beaumont
- 10 Ozark Trail Hike, Near Taum Sauk, Philmont Practice Hike
- 12 Troop Meeting, WMS
- 16-18 Fishing Derby, Sherwood Forest Camp, Lesterville, MO
- 19 PLC, WMS
- 22 Parent's Meeting, WMS
- 25 Good Turn Day, Jefferson Barracks
- 26 Memorial Day, No Troop Meeting
- 31 Green Rock Trail Hike, Greensfelder Park, Philmont Practice Hike

*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.*