

Troop 824 News

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

February 2001

By Mr. & Mrs. Epeptine... for now

Welcome to the first Troop 824 Newsletter! Hopefully this will be the first of many newsletters to come.

The purpose, of course, is to provide Scouts and their parents with useful information about Troop activities and happenings. A newsletter should also provide a forum for Scouts to voice their ideas.

A Troop is a Scout run organization, this is a Troop newsletter... therefore, it should contain content which is primarily by and for the Scouts. Everyone can speak ideas, but you can really help by submitting written articles that you think should be presented here.

This newsletter is just a first step. We made it very plain on purpose. It needs a name and a format. The content will evolve.

Some ideas for content...

- ✓ A "name the newsletter" contest
- ✓ "funny troop history" column... you hear lots of stories at troop events... let's get some in print
- ✓ "A Scout is..." paragraph... assigned to a patrol or volunteer.
- ✓ Patrol News
- ✓ "Meet Your Leaders", show a picture of and write a brief biography about a senior Scout or Adult Leader
- ✓ Scouting Tips (how to pack for camp, wear the uniform, do a merit badge, basic skills, etc.)
- ✓ "Adopt an Event", an older Scout writes about an upcoming event... like the Shiloh hikes, to give the younger Scouts some idea of what it is and to encourage them
- ✓ Scoutmaster's briefing

- ✓ From the PLC
- ✓ At the Last Meeting... Event...
- ✓ Advancement... some important part of it, like the importance and benefit of getting merit badges from an "out of troop" counselor.
- ✓ A cartoon drawn by someone in the troop.
- ✓ A Scouting related "funny"
- ✓ Interesting Scout related web sites.
- ✓ Share your pictures...

There are many more ideas for content of the newsletter, but we'll show you just one example.

Advancement Cabin Campout

A cabin at the Swift Explorer Base was home to about 35 Scouts and 12 adult leaders for a weekend in January. This is an event where we concentrate on rank advancement and earning merit badges. Scouts generally like this type of event because they don't have to cook or pitch tents ;-)



The patrols check-in with the Scoutmaster

Coordinators for the event were Mr. Baxter and Mr. Epeptine.

We had several "graduate" Scouts attend: Jon Petry, Bryan Brush, Steve Zeuner, and Steve & Mike Pleimann had a reunion of sorts and they all were a great help with the event.

Things weren't all work... there were

several organized games, courtesy of Mr. Chambers. Some of the Scouts even brought their own entertainment.



Some Senior Scouts hard at work on advancement

All in all, it was a fine weekend. Everyone should be proud of all they accomplished.



This is the "footsie" game. We have some fun too.

Your Troop Needs Your Help

We need reporters/writers for this newsletter to be successful. If you'd like to try your hand at being a reporter or writer for a real newsletter, this would be an excellent place to start.

It seems to be agreed that a monthly newsletter would be appropriate. If this proves to be the case, articles should be due by no later than the last troop meeting of each month for publication by the first meeting of each month.

Newsletter Coordinators: Mr. & Mrs. Epeptine, (487-6341 or email: david@pcjournal.com)

February 2001 Calendar and List of Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Troop Meeting WMS	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Troop Meeting at Hagemann * Elections	13	14	15	16 Winter Freeze Out begins	17 Gateway West Historical Trail Hike
18 Freeze out ends	19 PLC Meeting	20	21	22 Parents' mtg	23	24
25	26 Banquet Court of Honor—Concord Trinity	27	28			

Upcoming Events

- ✓ **Feb 16-18:** Klondike Derby/ Winter Freeze Out. Coordinator: Bob Greathouse, Cost: ? Location: Beaumont (might be cancelled)
- ✓ **Feb 17 or 18:** Troop Hike, Gateway West Historical Trail, a 10-mile circular trail beginning/ending at the Eads Bridge. Hike includes most of the important historical sites in downtown St. Louis & near south side. Coordinator: Bob Miller (892-8249), Cost: free (bring \$ for lunch) Sign-up sheets out now.
- ✓ **Feb 26:** Court of Honor and Banquet, Concord Trinity United Methodist Church, 5275 S. Lindbergh (you should have an invitation notice). Coordinators: Linda Rose (487-6773), Bea Rouse (842-3898), Cost: \$7.50/person, Children under 5: \$4.50. Bring your checkbook for Friends of Scouting **Reservations due Feb 12.**
- ✓ **March 11:** High-Low Ropes Course at Beaumont for 1st and 2nd year Scouts. Coordinator: Bob Miller, Cost: \$3 Sign up sheets are out now.

Phone Book Fund Raiser

White pages should be arriving shortly for delivery (probably 1st week in March). This is a good way for Scouts to earn some money needed for summer camp or other long term events. And if several boys team up, it goes pretty quickly. For more details contact Carol Bender (894-4364).

Upcoming Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held every Monday (3rd Mondays are PLC only) at 7PM in the Washington Middle School (WMS) cafeteria unless otherwise noted.

- ✓ **Feb 12: TROOP ELECTIONS**
Troop Meeting will be at **Hagemann** Elementary
- ✓ **Feb 19:** PLC at the Bohn's
- ✓ **Feb 26:** Court of Honor banquet at Concord Trinity (see events)
- ✓ **March 5:** Troop Meeting
- ✓ **March 12:** Troop Meeting
- ✓ **March 19:** PLC at WMS
- ✓ **March 26:** No Meeting

Upcoming Parents' Meetings

Parents' meetings are generally 4th Thursdays of the month at WMS cafeteria unless otherwise noted
Thursday, **Feb 22**, 7:00 PM at WMS
Thursday, **Mar 22**, 7:00 PM at WMS

A Scout is... THRIFTY.

Quoting from the Boy Scout Handbook, "part of thrift is protecting & conserving the Earth's natural resources... forests... Do all you can to minimize waste." Please help us reduce the amount of paper generated by this troop. Scouts should share this newsletter with their families. Parents will not receive a copy of this newsletter except those families where their "children" have moved to "adult" status.

Summer Camp

2001 Summer Camp will be July 8-14 at S-F's camp Sakima, on the Linn campsite. More information will be appearing in the near future. Keep your eyes open, be prepared, and ask questions.

Shiloh Dates Set

The 2001 Shiloh trip has been set for Thursday thru Sunday, Oct 25-28. Mark your calendars now!

For those of you not familiar with this event, Shiloh is a National Military Park about 100 miles east of Memphis at the site of the Civil War battle. Six trails are available to hike, ranging from 14-22 miles.

This is not a rugged hike... think of this as a (very long) walk in the park. Along the way, you will find answers to a questionnaire... sort of like a scavenger hunt. Patches are awarded for each hike. In addition, a Veteran Hiker's Award is presented to those having completed all six hikes... quite an accomplishment.

The Troop traditionally goes to Shiloh in odd-numbered years. Each time, we plan for each Scout to hike two of the six trails. This makes possible completion of all six hikes during a Scout's career.

The Troop considers this event a family activity. Cabins are reserved at nearby Pickwick Dam State Park. It is an enjoyable Fall weekend with family.