

TROOP 824 NEWS

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

February 2002

It Seems Like Just Yesterday

By Mr. Eppestine

...that we published the first *Troop 824 News*, but it's been a year already. Happy anniversary! Winter Advancement Camp marks a full cycle of Troop events covered by our newsletter. You will note, however, that *this* issue doesn't cover Winter Advancement camp like the February 2001 issue did. This is because we had two issues devoted to the Shiloh hikes and we published a dual issue (Nov/Dec) to give us a break during the holidays. Besides that... all the pictures and one-liners for the advancement camp article aren't in yet. ;-)

Our thanks to those who have contributed articles/photos/ideas for the newsletter. Our ultimate intent is for *Troop 824 News* to be a self sustaining publication **by** you Scouts. This means that by the time we are no longer active in the troop, the Scouts of Troop 824 should have a way to produce a newsletter and distribute it to chartered members of the troop. This means we need your participation. If any of you are interested in writing, journalism, photography, computers, art... all of that and more go into making a successful group newsletter. And you know what, these things are also found as requirements for many merit badges. Come on... jump in... the water's fine.

Merit Badge Counselors

By Mr. E, the advancement chairman

According to our TroopMaster database, we have 21 Merit Badge counselors in the troop. I've updated our list and cross referenced it with the list published by GSLAC (that's Greater St. Louis Area Council for you new Scouts). Some of those who have been on the list a long time have retired, and some have a son who's about to reach Adult status (turns 18) or is already, and are about to retire. We could use several more counselors, especially for some of the more popular Eagle merit badges... such as Citizenship in the (Community, Nation, World), Communications, Personal Management, Personal Fitness, Family Life, First Aid, Environmental Science, and Emergency Preparedness. We could also use a counselor for the Traffic Safety merit badge. Any badge you're interested in (there are 120 of them) would be useful.

You may have the notion that this takes a lot of time, effort, and expertise... it does not.

I've included the most current list of "in the troop" MB counselors we have. It will be a separate document emailed to you around the time you get this newsletter. If you're a Scout, please print this and keep it with your Merit Badge stuff for reference. I will update it periodically and send you another copy. If you're an Adult, please check this over. If you're not on our list and you think you should be, please let us know. If you find your name is highlighted, that means you couldn't be found in the GSLAC list and you need to let us know what your status is.

If you have not applied to be a merit badge counselor, please consider doing so. See Mr. Eppestine for forms and instructions.

Winter Advancement Camp

Winter Advancement Camp was also a successful event. We had beautiful weather, and many Scouts made good progress towards rank advancement and merit badges. As we've said here before, a little planning and pre-work goes a long way to get you to your goal. But the time spent at this event helped you make progress even if you didn't complete some things.

Statistics: Eleven Scouts completed 12 rank advancements (Steven Backer earned both Tenderfoot and Second Class); Twenty five merit badges were completed with 21 of those being for Eagle rank.

Good job one and all.

Winter Court of Honor Banquet

Naturally, after an advancement camp, we need to hold a Court of Honor to recognize Scout advancement. We hold four COH's each year. By now you should have received your reservation form. Seating starts at 6 PM, dinner at 6:30, and COH at 7:15 PM, **Feb 25th at Concord Trinity United Methodist Church, 5275 S Lindbergh** (across the street from TGI Friday's). This is an indoor catered dinner and since this month is Scout Month we will also have our annual Friends of Scouting, and Friends of Troop 824 pledge drives. Bring your checkbooks and this will be brief. Banquet payment is due Feb 11th, so call Linda Rose at 487-6773 or Bea Rouse at 842-3898 if you haven't paid.

Some Final Words About Freeze Out

Freeze Out and Klondike Derby is scheduled for next weekend, Feb 15-17. Coordinators are Mr. Chambers and Mr. Schrenker. This event is sponsored by Council and is a lot like Camporee or Pacao, only in cold weather. We've reported on it in the newsletter before, but this is just a reminder to come prepared. The weather might be warm, it might be cold. Maybe dry, maybe wet. A good rule would be to come prepared for the worst. Then, you can be ready for anything. Your Scout Handbook might have some good advice about cold weather camping, but here's a BSA related web site I found that has a lot of good advice.

www.isd.net/stobin/document/coldhnt3.html

Highlights are: Don't get wet or sweaty, keep your tent and sleeping bag dry, wear layers of clothing, have spare clothes if you do get wet or overheated. Insulate yourself from the ground (or the air under your cot) as much as possible when in your sleeping bag. Use a bag rated for the weather. Bring a couple of spare blankets. You might want a hand warmer or something like an old hot water bottle for down by your feet inside the bag. There's lots more I probably didn't think of. Read and ask questions if you've never been winter camping. Be prepared!

Help Wanted

Newsletter Contributions

The newsletter staff is asking for your help with the newsletter. Event articles usually work is like this. First, we put in a "What, When, Where, Why" paragraph. Then, a Scout who's been to an event writes a story describing it. And finally, someone writes a story after the event. If you want to play reporter, you could even interview other Scouts or adults and put their comments in the story. We could also use stories about Merit Badges, Scout skills, interesting articles you've seen on the Internet and elsewhere... Jokes, cartoons, picture stories... be creative. Most importantly, **submit something**. If you've got an idea, but are having trouble, call Mr. Eppestine 487-6341, he can help.

Reliable Young Man with a Digital Camera

Joan Bramsch, a noted author, teacher, and entrepreneur needs someone to help her with digital pictures of collectibles. She's making a "book on disk" to sell on the Internet. You would be working for money. This is not a Scout related thing. Contact Mr. Eppestine if interested.

Adirondacks and Rifle Shoot

We haven't done this event for a couple of years. We have the area reserved for the weekend of March 8-10. If you didn't know, this is a late winter camping event, usually at the Adirondack shelters on the Beaumont reservation. If you went on the Webelos cabin campout hike, you saw them near the Nagel horse ranch. These are like crude buildings with one wall missing.

In conjunction with this event, we are planning a rifle shoot at a range nearby. If we can get a merit badge counselor to come, those that got a partial on the Rifle Shooting merit badge at summer camp, might get a chance to finish up.

More details will be in the next newsletter

Troop 824 Upcoming Events

- ✓ **February 11** Troop Meeting at WMS
- ✓ **February 15-17** Winter Freeze Out at Beaumont. See Mr. Schrenker or Mr. Chambers for details.
- ✓ **February 18** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons' (No School)
- ✓ **February 25** 6:00 pm dinner Court of Honor at Concord Trinity United Methodist. Coordinators: Mrs. Rouse & Mrs. Rose. Money due Feb 11th
- ✓ **February 28** Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM at WMS
- ✓ **March 4** Troop Meeting at WMS
- ✓ **March 8-10** Adirondacks & Rifle Shoot, Beaumont
- ✓ **March 11** Troop Meeting at WMS
- ✓ **March 18** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbon's
- ✓ **March 21** Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM at WMS
- ✓ **April 1** Troop Meeting at WMS
- ✓ **April 7** High-Low Ropes Course at Beaumont, Ron Schrenker & Jim Chambers Coordinating, \$3
- ✓ **April 8** Troop Meeting at WMS
- ✓ **April 12-14** Spring Camporee at camp Sunnen. **We need coordinators.** They also need Scouts on staff.
- ✓ **April 15** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbon's
- ✓ **April 19-21** OA Spring Conclave
- ✓ **April 22** Troop Meeting at WMS
- ✓ **April 25** Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM at WMS
- ✓ **April 29** Troop Meeting at WMS

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

*Parents' meetings are generally LAST Thursday of the month at **WMS Art Room** (upstairs, through the gym to the far left corner) unless otherwise noted*

Webelos Cabin Campout Nov 30—Dec 2, 2001

Troop 824 hosts an annual "meet the Webelos" cabin camping event at Beaumont. The purpose is to show the incoming Webelos Scouts what a Scout Troop is like. We camp in cabins, and the adults cook for everyone so that the Scouts can demonstrate scout skills to the Webelos.

Our thanks to those contributing pictures and one-liners for this event. We would like to see more snapshots from Scouts... or stories, or one-liners. Levi Tucker took some pictures of the hike for us. But you Scouts might want to pack one of those single use cameras with your camping gear, and take some pictures. The adults might not see an event from your perspective.

Who can name all the cabins? Which one did you stay in? What did it look like? Who was there? Did you have fun? If you can answer these questions, you can write a story.



Here's why so many enjoy this event. No tents, no cooking, and plenty of free time to play cards and enjoy each other's company.



Tim and Steve Zeuner worked hard to build an impressive campfire



Here's a wilderness survival shelter. Looks cozy, Huh?

Overheard While at Webelos Cabin Camp

- ✓ Enjoy your warm milk when you get home
- ✓ I didn't do it! Whew!
- ✓ Is there a mouse in the oven? Something smells.
- ✓ Smells like somebody peed in the oven
- ✓ Smells like a nursing home caught fire
- ✓ Let's throw a couple of Tidy Bowl pucks in there
- ✓ Don't let the door hit 'cha on the way out
- ✓ Stop admiring your driving permits and get to work
- ✓ It was so cold then, I had to wet my pants to stay warm.



The Scouts show some Webelos how to set up a campsite



Here, we're at Nagel, either arriving or heading back to the cabins. Looks like somebody is practicing backwards hiking.



Is that not the biggest pot of chicken noodle soup you ever saw?



Eagle Scout Ryan Miller and Life Scout Dave Pleimann have to blow on this fire to get it started



"If I weren't a Boy Scout... a Fence Post I would be..."



Yes! We have another adult skit victim. One of the dads gets carried away doing his part of a skit.



Pete Eppestine & Dave Marsters do a skit that has something to do with shoes. Do you remember what happened next?



It's now time to pack up the troop trailer and get ready to head home. This is part of what the Quartermasters do for the troop.



I'll bet you didn't know you could have fresh cooked doughnuts on a campout. I think these are being served up by the Scoutmaster