

Troop 824 News

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

January 2004

Happy Holidays & The Best New Year

By Mr. Eppestine

We haven't had a newsletter since October. There's been a lot happening since then and there's a lot to cover. We need articles, guys (and adults, see below).

Just like the Summer Camp issue last July, we had high hopes of getting more Scout provided articles and pictures... something... for this newsletter, but it just isn't happening. We're grateful for what we've been getting, but there's just not enough of you submitting material to fill a four page newsletter once a month. You might have noticed that last year's newsletters included several "double" month issues. We did this to emphasize the lack of material. We'd also hoped that we could get more pictures onto the web site and maintain the calendar there, but information is sporadic and is constantly changing it seems. Time to regroup and make a new plan.

Newsletter Evolution

Since the beginning, we've asked Scouts to step up and contribute to this newsletter. During some Boards of Review interviews, we've learned over the years that some of you aspire to a public life, whether it be politician or stand-up comedian. You guys typically make ideal writers, and you should be looking more closely at honing your writing skills.

Having said that, and before you read the following, please understand that articles and submissions by Scouts are still highly encouraged and most welcome. We hereby turn to the Adults for more input.

[Editor's Note: this newsletter is going to be later still, because it seems that just as I was typing the above paragraph, I received notices from some adults that they'd be submitting something. This was almost like magic. Thanks!]

Some Ideas for Articles

My thinking is that adult leaders in the troop can also serve as a good example. We need more participation from adults in the troop anyway. This is one way you can really help your Scout. Very few Scouts actually make it completely through the program to Eagle if they don't have adequate parental participation. Some of you might think it's all about camping and you don't want to have anything to do with that. I know time is an issue for

some of you, especially on weekends when we do most of our events. But there are many ways you can contribute to the troop and support your son without taking up all your weekends or going camping. One way, of course, is to contribute to the newsletter. You could write brief articles about events if you've attended them, you could write about that guest speaker or the interesting program you've seen at a troop meeting, you could participate as an event coordinator or an assistant, and that might mean just helping collect money, meal planning, shopping, or finding a way to get the supplies to the event. You don't necessarily need to attend to help (although at least one coordinator ought to be present). You could write about your specialty if you're a merit badge counselor (another way to help support the troop is to become a merit badge counselor). You can greatly increase your focus on what's going on in the troop by attending the Parent's meetings. This is also the best place to find out what things have changed on the event calendar. Whether you're registered or not, if you're interested in your son's Scouting, do yourself and him a favor and attend these meetings.

While I'm on the soapbox, I might just mention that before too long, this troop is going to be faced with a severe shortage of adult leaders that actually attend events. The very real possibility is that we will be forced to cancel events due to lack of participation. Your Scouts need you. Let's not let them down.

<He now steps off the soapbox>

Shiloh was a Success

Our first event since Pacao was the Shiloh hikes back in early November. Here's some interesting statistics you might like to know:

A total of 48 people went to Shiloh this year. Of those, 18 were adults, 29 were Scouts, and one young sibling. 1126 miles were hiked by 44 of these people over two days. There were 15 adults hiking. 7 of these did hike 1 &/or 2, 4 adults hiked 3 & 4, and 2 hiked 5 & 7. There were 29 Scouts hiking, 11 for hikes 1 & 2, 13 for hikes 3 & 4, and 5 for hikes 5 & 7. Two adults actually hiked the closed Lew Wallace approach, hike # 6. Of those hiking, only five qualified to earn the coveted Shiloh Veteran Hiker Award.

Next up will be a couple of articles from Scouts on the Shiloh trip. You'll notice some pictures sprinkled

around... they're all from Mr. & Mrs. Eppestine. If you have some pictures from Shiloh (we specifically lack some picture during hikes 3 & 4) share 'em with us and they'll at least appear on the web site. Captions might be nice.

Shiloh Hikes 3 & 4

By Robby Lehn

During Shiloh hike 3 & 4, our group was comprised of Mr. Sheppers, Mr. Rhodes, Tyler Scheppers, Steve Backer, Davy Oster, Robby Lehn, Eric Simpson, Dave Dempsey, and Josh Rhodes. There was another group that hiked the same hikes as us, but they did #4 on the first day and #3 on the second day.



On day one when we had our first hike (#3) we started off with the egg and ham that were prepared for us by Mrs. Oster and Mr. Schrenker. Then we gathered at the parking lot to leave for the first hike. During the first hike, we followed roads and found the monuments and plaques. We learned different things about the battle, like that Minnesota, Ohio, Arkansas, Iowa, and Nebraska companies participated in the battle at the Hornet's Nest.

After hiking all day we went back to the cabins and then left for dinner. For dinner we went to a restaurant just out of Iuka, Mississippi called Southern Style Restaurant. There we ate at the buffet, which had mushy fried food (but it was surely good). Then, after dinner we went back to the cabins we were staying in and got a good night's sleep before the next hike.

The next day we had either the same thing for breakfast or the waffles and pancakes at the Eppestine cabin. Then like the first day, we gathered on the parking lot and left. This second day of hiking, we used the compass to go from place to place. On that day we learned about other things including that Bloody Pond was used by sol-

diers to wash their wounds and that by the end of the battle it was red.



For dinner we went to the same place. The next day after staying up kind of late, everybody went home and finished their homework or went to sleep.

Shiloh Hikes 1 & 2

By David Sheahan

My group went on hike 1 & 2. I went with first year scouts and it was nice because I knew them all.

We walked about 24 miles. That is the longest I have ever walked and it **almost killed me**. All the guys feet got sore.



The weather for the hike was cold, in the morning but was not too bad once we got going.

I liked the museum and the battlefields with the cannons. It is hard to believe this was major battle scene a long time ago and that a lot of people lost their lives.

We all had fun at Shiloh.

Shiloh Hikes 5 & 7

By Mr. Epestine

I'll keep this brief so there's room for more pictures, and so someone else can do a piece on these hikes.



From the standpoint of the battle of Shiloh, hike 5 is the one that traces the route the Confederates took from Corinth, MS to the battlefield area in Tennessee. Roughly 20 miles from the MS state line. The idea is to give you some sense of what it must have been like to be a confederate soldier on the way to battle. Well, unless you want to simulate what their feet felt like... it ain't happenin'. The landscape has changed drastically in 140 years. We now have modern roads, not nearly as much forest and brush. We didn't have to carry heavy equipment. Our shoes and socks even were much better than the rebs had. I could go on and on... I won't.



We had to answer questions much like the ones asked on previous hikes. Only hike five sort of combined features from all of the hikes. We had a couple of areas where we needed a compass similar to hike 4 and in addition to questions along the way, our reading material consisted of a book (the short novel, *Shiloh* by Shelby Foote) to read. We had to submit a written book report about it.

I was a bit concerned about this hike being six miles longer than any I've ever done, so I performed several conditioning hikes in St. Louis weeks before Shiloh. I also studied up on equipment and bought some special hiking socks to help prevent blisters. It worked (mostly). I made it with endurance to spare and only one tiny blister on the same toe I usually get a blister on.

Hike 7 was a substitute for the normal hike 6, the Lew Wallace approach hike. Hike 7 is an auxiliary hike and deals with the environment of the land surrounding you as you hike and not about the battle of Shiloh. It was a 14 mile hike nonetheless with some tricky and difficult questions.

Peter, myself, and Anthony Rhodes have now all done the six required hikes at Shiloh to qualify for the veteran hiker award. John Petry and him Mom, Geri also earned it.



Look for more great pictures from Shiloh on the troop website. www.troop824-gslac.org



Scouts Can and Usually Do Excel at Something Besides Scouting

Submitted by Sharon Oster

[Ed note: Sharon sent this back in late August. I couldn't fit it into the last newsletter, so here it is now. Better late than never]

This was taken directly from the Concord Call. Troop 824 scouts who are members of the symphonic band, are Davy Oster, Robby Lehn, David Dempsey, Devin Klein, Wil Shelton, and Jacob Jones.

The Washington Middle School Symphonic Band [took] a road trip in January to perform at the Missouri Music Educators' Association annual convention at Tan-Tar-A resort.

The band was selected to give a special performance after earning the title "Missouri State Middle School Honor Band 2004" based on last spring's performance at the Music Festivals competition in Chicago.

Under the direction of Jennifer Garrison Brown, the Washington Middle School Symphonic Band scored all Superior One ratings at the Chicago competition. The WMS band also won "Best Section" of the day for the trumpet section and "Best Soloist" of the day by eight-grader Emily Fiasco. The 50 member band also earned a First Place finish in their division and was named Grand Champions of the day. After the competition, the WMS band was later recognized as National Champions by the Music Festivals organization.

Submitted by Clif Fitzgibbons

As evidence that Boy scouts are well rounded individuals I would like to introduce to you four of our scouts that are also members of Melville's wrestling squad. Meet Doug Boyher, Patrick Fitzgibbons, Jason Wang and Zac Jones. Doug, Patrick and Jason are on JV and Zac wrestles with the freshman. There is also another scout familiar to many of us who also wrestles; his name is Travis Dearmont, the SPL from troop 217. You'll remember him from Philmont crew 708-E1.

Doug is really tearin' em up this year, with an 11 and 4 record with 8 pins to his credit while wrestling in the heavy weight class. Doug took 1st place at the Jackson MO tournament January 10. Don't mess with Doug, it's best to make friends with him.

Patrick also took 1st place at the Jackson MO tournament in the 140-weight class. He has a record of 5 and 5 so far this year with 3 pins, not bad for not having wrestled 'till his sophomore year. Doug uses Patrick in place of weights while he's doing bench presses.

Jason is one of the most multi-talented guys I know. Not only is he a tough wrestler but he is a member of the football team, plays in the band, practices Tai-khan-do (you'll remember his performance at a troop meeting a couple of months ago), runs track, is on the honor roll and is also a patrol leader in the troop.

Zac wrestles on the freshman squad and is very exciting to watch. He has a record of 9 and 1 with 8 pins. He also played football for the Panthers this year. You JV and Varsity guys better not turn your back on him. Zac's gonna be a good one.

Wrestling is a very intense sport with practice sessions that are said to be more grueling than football. These four scouts are very devoted and the meets and tournaments are exciting to watch. The families of the other wrestlers that you meet at the events are a close knit bunch, much like our scouting families.



Keep up the hard work guys!!!

