

TROOP 824 NEWS

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

July 2001

Traffic Alert

For those of you driving down to S-F next week, be aware of construction delays on I-55 in both directions. You might want to plan for additional travel time or seek alternative routes.

Upcoming Events

Boy Scouts is indeed a boy-run organization. During June and July, patrol leaders will be asking members of their patrols for ideas for what events they would like the troop to sponsor during the upcoming year, which runs from September-August for our troop. Don't be shy, let them know. It is **your** troop. The PLC discusses these suggestions, which are then presented to the Troop Committee. So while the boys decide what they would like to do, the events don't get scheduled without adult participation. The more adults that participate, the more fun for everyone. And believe me, you don't have to be an avid outdoors person to participate in the troop. There are all kinds of jobs requiring all kinds of skills and talents to keep a troop our size running. Everything from coordinating sign-ups for a Blues Hockey game to attending camping events to helping provide transportation to some event. Perhaps your job or hobby would lend itself to being a merit badge counselor for that subject. New parents are welcomed and encouraged to get involved; the parents of the older boys did not sign up for life and will be leaving the troop someday, along with the knowledge they have of running the troop. We need replacements.

A proposed Event Calendar for the upcoming year was discussed at the June Parents' meeting and will be the main topic of discussion at the July 26th meeting (6:45 pm at Suson Park). Please consider attending and volunteering to adopt one of the events. It will mean a lot to your son.

Fishing Derby Winners

Congratulations to this year's fishing derby winners.

Biggest Bass (2 way tie) goes to Adam Veinfurt & Kevin Bohn

Biggest Bluegill (4 way tie) goes to Levi

Tucker, Wes Baxter, Mike Wisely & Clayton Greathouse.

The service project was tough, as usual. There were a few cases of poison ivy... both adults and Scouts. Let's review the basics guys. We're supposed to know how to recognize this stuff by now. The Camp Sherwood Forrest folks were very pleased indeed with Troop 824's efforts. We can all be very proud.

It's no great surprise that Tom Zeuner **again** volunteered to coordinate this popular annual event for next year (we had to twist his arm, but he finally gave in).

Summer Camp and O.A.

Levi Tucker

Summer camp is a week long camp out to get away from a lot of things, like your sisters, brothers, mothers... Some parents do come to camp though if they want to. At summer camp, you can advance in rank or just have fun. All the new first year Scouts must do the Voyager Program, but you can also choose up to about 4 other badges. Some of the merit badges to choose from are Archery, Rifle Shooting, Horsemanship, and many others. Take a look in your summer camp book to see what's available. First years might take it easy, though... you'll be busy with Voyager. At 3:00 pm we have a free swim to just go swim and relax. When we first get to camp, you will take a swimming test and then have to help set up camp. Then, you finally get to set up your stuff in your tent. Thursday, your whole family (but not pets) are welcome to come to camp until after the OA ceremony, then they must leave QUIETLY.

About OA, Order of the Arrow is an honored campers society. Only those who show that they can live the Scout Oath and Law in their everyday lives should be elected. To get into OA, you must be voted in. All Scouts in the troop from first year Scouts to OA members vote for those that are eligible. We will vote on Thursday morning before breakfast. Thursday night around supper time, your family and guests (except pets) are welcome to come visit at camp and to attend the OA ceremony (just

after sunset). After the camp wide ceremony at the waterfront, family and guests must leave directly to the parking lot in silence. Once we leave camp for the ceremony every one is under a vow of silence until the next day. For all you new scouts at summer camp, this means no one can talk until the next day. When we leave for the ceremony NO one but OA members can have a flashlight except the family that goes to their cars (not back to the camp site). Adults with Class A may be on the Scout side of Nims lake in line with the Scouts, all others will be on the other side viewing the ceremony. No matter what you have heard, during the ceremony, the runner cannot hit you if you are being called out. The Call Out ceremony is not a joke, and all members take it extremely seriously. When we get to the line and face the lake, look forward only. If you don't, an Arrowman will straighten it for you.

Some patrol members will be hard to find until about 8 am Friday morning. Those who are not Arrowmen or have not been called out will have to go straight to bed, no lights, no talking.

On Wednesday we have a water carnival. There are games and a contest that the troop has not lost in several years. Last year was close, but our former Scout Master, Mr. Bohn, put us over the top with the Scoutmaster belly flop... yea, Mr. Bohn! It changes a bit each year, but last year we had the Scoutmaster belly flop, sand castle building, canoe races, swimming, and more. They have contests where all levels of swimmers can participate, even non-swimmers.

Saturday morning everyone will pack up personal, troop, and camp gear. After a camp inspector comes, he will clear us and everyone can then leave (be sure your ride home is at camp by 9:30 am). Summer camp is a place for lots of fun, but it IS a Scouting event. All Scout rules (the oath, and law are a good guide) must be followed at summer camp.

Now, a short note from Mr. E...

Summer Camp starts July 8th (that's this Sunday) at S-F's Camp Sakima, on the Linn campsite. You have a map, right? We will meet on the campsite or in the parking lot about 11:30. S-F is about an 80 mile drive



from St. Louis, an hour and a half drive unless you stop for an early lunch along the way (you won't get food at camp until supper). A word to the wise... there's **lots** of construction along I-55 before Hwy 141 south almost to Barnhart. There are delays and slowdowns even on Sunday. Either leave early or find a route around it. A final note to Scouts... No Medical Form, no camping... pack swimsuit **ON TOP**. Bring your bug repellent (non aerosol please), we've heard the ticks are **BAD** this year. **Your ride home should be at camp by 9:30 am Saturday.** Read your merit badge books and **BE PREPARED.**

Meet Your Scoutmaster

By Patrick Fitzgibbons

Clif Fitzgibbons is Troop 824's Scoutmaster. 2001 will mark his first summer camp as SM.

Mr. Fitzgibbons came into Scouting in 1967 as a Webelos from pack 585, St. Bernadette Church. He rose to the rank of Life and was inducted into OA while he was a Scout. An interesting note...

his father was both his Cubmaster and Scoutmaster while he was a Scout. Since he's been in Troop 824, he's been a Committee Member, an Assistant Scoutmaster, and now Scoutmaster.

Clif likes Cardinals baseball (who doesn't?), camping, and hunting. When he was a Scout, he liked hiking, camping, and any of the stuff on the water.

Mr. Fitzgibbons works for Fitz's Steering Column Service, and naturally, he's an Auto Mechanics Merit Badge counselor.

We can all do well to follow his example and leadership in the ways of Scouting.



A Picture Challenge

This month, a Troop 824 veteran sends a picture from a Summer Camp long ago and far away (it was in Illinois at camp Joy). Many of you might not recognize the faces in this picture, but there are several in this group that have been Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 824. Can you name them?

Upcoming Events

- ✓ **July 8-14** Summer Camp at S-F Camp Sakima.
- ✓ **July 29-August 4** JLTC at S-F
- ✓ **August 17-19** Advancement Camp at Hawn State Park
- ✓ **August 25** Bar-be-que and Court of Honor at Beaumont
- ✓ **October 5-7** Fall Pacao at S-F
- ✓ **October 26-28** Shiloh Hikes

Upcoming Troop Meetings

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

- ✓ **July 2** Troop Meeting at Suson Park
- ✓ **July 16** Spanky's
- ✓ **July 23** Troop Meeting at Suson Park
- ✓ **July 30** Troop Meeting at Suson Park
- ✓ **August 6** Troop Meeting at Suson Park
- ✓ **August 13** Troop Meeting at Suson Park
- ✓ **August 20** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons' house
- ✓ **August 27** Troop Meeting at Suson Park
- ✓ **September 10** Troop Meeting at WMS
- ✓ **September 17** PLC at WMS
- ✓ **September 24** Troop Meeting at WMS

Upcoming Parents' Meetings

Parents' meetings are generally 4th Thursdays of the month at WMS cafeteria unless otherwise noted

- July 26** 6:45 PM at Suson Park
- Aug 23** 6:45 PM at Suson Park
- September 27** 7:00 PM at WMS

A Scout is... FRIENDLY *A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts and all the people of the world. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs that are different from his own. Making a friend is fairly easy if you are friendly yourself. Keeping a friend is more difficult. Every person is an individual with his or her own ideas and ways of doing things. To be a real friend you must accept other people as they are, show interest in them, and respect their differences.*