

Troop 824 News

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

July/August 2003

Troop 824 Attends Summer Camp at S-F's Gamble June 22-28

Summer camp was a success, even though many of the usual (adult) faces were absent due to the vacation time pressures with Philmont coming up just a week after summer camp.

If you don't remember, the troop was at S-F's Camp Gamble on the Hubeli campsite. This was a rather compact camp site for a troop of our size and things were just a bit crowded, but we made the best of it.



Scoutmaster Fitzgibbons towed the small trailer to Hubeli and stayed through camp setup. He returned for Thursday's OA call out and again on Saturday to break camp and check out. The rest of the week, our future Scoutmaster, Mr. Dundon, was in charge.

Our first order of business was to set up camp. Campsite assignments were made for each of the six patrols and the LC and Adults.

The advance team determined placement and worked as a team to get most of the equipment disbursed to each campsite, and as Scouts arrived they began setting up



tents and flies and bringing their gear into camp.

Once things were fairly secure, we all got to line up in swim gear for the usual S-F "Medical Recheck". Then it was off to the Commissary to get a lesson in how to use the equipment provided to properly prepare meals for the week. And finally, we went down by Nims lake to



take a swim test and get assigned a swim buddy for the week (safety first).

After the refreshing swim, it was back to camp to finish setting up. A bit later, we dressed in Class A and marched down to the Flag Field for some opening remarks by Staff, then off to the Commissary again for the traditional spaghetti dinner.





As nightfall approached, the entire camp turned out at the Council Ring for the opening campfire. They had many of the traditional skits, but the new ones surprised some (Hey, Pete... is The System Down?)



ing, mountain bikes, climbing, and shotgun shooting are just a few of the things older Scouts can do while they're at camp. Unfortunately for one of the Troop Guides, a broken leg and crutches meant he couldn't participate in many activities and some of the guys thought it'd be a good idea to "cart" him to the Scoutcraft area to do at least one merit badge.



In the morning, everyone got up early to fix breakfast and prepare to go off to activities. We used the traditional In/Out board and the "buddy system" to let leaders know where Scouts are at camp and to keep safe. Mr. Dundon really made a great "shed" for the in/out board and the weekly schedule... don't you think?



As luck would have it, Monday was also Troop 824's day to go to Huck's Cove, a water park built onto one end of Nims lake with a swimming' hole feel to it.



Now, it's off to activities. Most of the first year Scouts attend the Voyager program to learn early Scout skills to work towards Tenderfoot and Second Class rank. All Scouts can work on the various Merit Badge programs offer at S-F. And there's even something for the older Scouts. They don't count towards merit badges, but hik-



Tuesday night was the Troop Campfire. This year the LC guys dug a fire "pit" in their area and hosted the campfire. We usually use an extra open area in the campsite, but since we were so short on space this year, the LC was kind enough to share their area. We did have a bit of a



problem with litter, so let's review the Outdoor Code and everyone should know the Scout principle of Leave No Trace. ALL SCOUTS should treat the outdoors as if it is their living room (don't litter or damage or make a mess).



[Looks like Mr. Dundon is practicing for the Scoutmaster Belly Flop here at Huck's cove.]

Wednesday was "Water Carnival". Of course, Troop 824 took top honors as usual, but one troop's Scoutmaster (he sure looked young) wrapped up in aluminum foil as a Knight of sorts before doing the belly flop.



Late that night (Wednesday) it rained really hard. The Circus Fly caught a lot of rain and almost collapsed, but Mr. Z figured out how to drain out the water before we held OA elections Thursday morning.



Late afternoon Thursday, parents began to arrive for Parents night and the OA Call Out ceremony. This is where those Scouts and Adult Leaders who've been chosen are 'called out' for their pre-ordeal Order of the Arrow induction.

Just a reminder, if you bring a snack for your scout on parent's night, be sure and bring enough to share with his patrol. Some might not be able to have someone come to visit. Friday was merit badge make-up day and also included lots of free time if you didn't have anything to make up.





We had the Troop Archery and Rifle shoot competition, and then in the early afternoon, if you wanted to try, was the Mile Swim. This is not competition, just a personal challenge. You get a nice



and begin to break camp and leave for home. Summer Camp always has lots of memorable moments.



patch every time you do it.

That evening everyone gathered again at the Council Ring for the Closing Campfire. It's here that we received awards for some of the weeks accomplishments and enjoyed a lot more great skits by the Staff.

Sadly, Saturday morning is time to eat a light breakfast



One Liners from Summer Camp

(If you have a good one, tell Mr. E and we'll get it published)

Do you want it burnt or just partly burnt?

An adult "... if I was any better, I'd be a Boy Scout"

Dude, your mom is HOT!

Stop throwing butter!

Again, an adult "...you're a good boy, but you're not perfect"

What's your Patrol? You don't know? But you're Patrol Leader.

Stupid grows on trees around here, and we got lots of trees.

Blue whale—what makes it blue? (you'll know if you heard joke)

Don't use that one, I've just topped it off.

You've just been Frank'ed

The Editor's Challenge

The above was Mr. E's running narrative (and a really quick one) of what went on in general at Summer Camp. You'll notice that only one of the pictures has a caption. We tried to place them so that you could follow along visually with the story that was presented.

Now, your editor has a challenge for you Scouts (and Adults if they want to)... naturally, it's submitting an article for this newsletter. Specifically, it should be about this year's Summer Camp.

You might notice that several parts of the story were left out. Partly on purpose, but also because Mr. E didn't get to many of the merit badge sessions. He didn't have time to get to the Archery or Rifle range (thanks to those that have provided pictures).

There's plenty of room and some pictures for stories about the following.

- **Merit Badge sessions.** Tell what it was about, who from the troop was also there, what the counselor was like, what people from other troops were like, describe any pictures you might have or have seen, and of course anything else that was interesting or funny.
- **Free Time Activities.** Tell what it was (things like Frisbee and baseball, reading, free swim, canoe/kayaking, hiking, trading post, finding things in nature like turtles... stuff like that).
- **Opening and Closing Campfires and skits**
- **The OA ceremony** (and without giving away too many "secrets", what it was like getting "called out".)
- **Voyager Program and First Year Scout experiences**
- **Older Scout Program.** What is available and what was it like?
- **Patrol Leader Narrative.** Tell about your patrol (name, flag, yell, who the members are). How'd things work out? Who ate with you. What was hard, easy, fun, funny, or anything else you can remember that might be interesting

I'm sure there are some other ideas for stories. See if you can think something up and get it to me by next issue, or at least before next Summer Camp.

For everyone's information, I personally took over 350 photos at Summer Camp this year (digital cameras are wonderful). There are a few winners, a lot of keepers, and some duds. I plan to share them with you all and any that others would like to send me (or loan me prints to scan). We can post some on the Troop web site

www.troop824-gslac.org

But due to the sheer number and size, they'd have to be small and probably wouldn't print well. If some of you would like copies, we can arrange to get a couple of master

copies of the pictures on CD-R disks and you could borrow them to view on your computer (and print the ones you want), and/or make your own copy. Those of you with the ability to "burn" CD's can help out here.

Speaking of this... next issue will probably start the Philmont story. Forty some folks (Scouts and Adults) associated with Troop 824 attended Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM. They were out there for some 11 days and were divided into several "crews". Each crew went on a separate "trek" so each will have a different story to tell. Mr. Fitzgibbons has already given me CD disks with 8 rolls of film on them... about 200 pictures. Others I'm sure will also have some documentation for us to see. As things come in and get organized, we'll get them out on the web site first of all, then in the newsletter, and finally a nice disk full for those that would like it.

Some Words of Advice

Jacob Halteman had a situation come up at summer camp that I've warned you all about several times. Take it away, Jacob

Once upon a time at a far far campsite named Hubeli, in camp Gamble in S-F Scout Ranch, camped 12 year old First Class scout of troop 824 named Jacob Halteman. Jacob was a hard working boy working on his four merit badges; Lifesaving, Fish and Wildlife management, Indian lore, and Wilderness survival. But the one he was working harder on than all the others was... Lifesaving. Oh how Jacob worked sooo hard. Well, anyhow, once Jacob was done with Lifesaving he told Mr. Epeestine because he's the troop's advancement chairman and the person that collects the merit badge cards. Even if you got a partial, you still need to tell Mr. Epeestine because you did hard work for that partial. Now back to the story. When it was time for Mr. Epeestine to collect the cards he couldn't find Jacob's merit badge card for Lifesaving. So what Mr. Epeestine did was he looked and he looked until he asked the Lifesaving counselor and they had Jacob down for finishing the Lifesaving merit badge but had LOST that card. If Jacob hadn't told Mr. Epeestine that he thought he'd completed Lifesaving, no one would have known until Court of Honor when Jacob wouldn't have received this hard earned badge. By then it would be too late to do much about it. So always remember to TELL MR.EPPESTINE THAT YOU FINISHED A MERIT BADGE EVEN IF IT'S A PARTIAL!

What's Coming Up

The next important date (mark your calendar) is the Troop meeting on **August 11th**. This will be annual **Troop elections**. This is the night we'll elect our new Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), and Patrol Leaders for the next 6 month term.

The following weekend (**August 15-17**) will be our annual **Summer Advancement Camp** at Hawn State Park. This is a weekend of fun, camping, hiking, and teaching/learning Scout skills for the early ranks (Tenderfoot, 2nd & 1st Class). There's a family camping area down the hill from where we'll be camping. Scouts will be using the Troop's equipment (tents, patrol boxes, etc.) and should bring their own cots/mats, sleeping bag, chair, cup & utensils and their personal gear. Bring your Class A and your Scout Handbook. Be sure you know when and where you've completed the aquatic portion of the requirements for 2nd & 1st Class. And the starting point of the Personal Fitness portion. Most of the rest we'll be able to get done in camp. Then, on **August 23rd** we'll hold our big Summer **BBO Court of Honor** at Beaumont's Council Ring and Wright Lodge. Details will be coming up about any covered dish or supplies you'll need to bring, but you might be sure to bring a chair and/or pad to sit on (concrete is hard), some bug spray, a flashlight, and at least an umbrella if it looks like rain. We've got a LOT of merit badges to award, and after Advancement Camp, probably a lot of ranks as well. Then there's the new Troop Leadership to recognize as well as a great amount of other awards along with skits and such. Our MC for the evening is Jacob Halteman.



Here's Peter Eppestine as Acting Senior Patrol Leader for two troop meetings while all the rest of the LC was out at Philmont. Thanks, Petel!

Just One More Quick Note...

Before we're done, I think you might have noticed that there's no calendar section in the newsletter this time. That's because it's changing faster than I can get out newsletters.

It's a lot easier to have an up-to-date calendar on the Troop web site. And I also have a suggestion for our new SPL (whoever that might be), let's try and get the new crop of Scribes (or one of them) to make an update for the troop calendar every month or so. And he can bring printed copies to each meeting to hand out. This way, even

if you can't go online, you have no excuse if you don't know what's going on.

We End this Month with Pictures from Recent Troop Meetings



The first troop meeting after summer camp is always a trip to Spanky's where the troop buys everyone a sweet treat. Best Patrol gets a BIG one.



Of course it rained while we were waiting in line at Spanky's. One Scout took cover under one of Spanky's table umbrellas.



Lately we've been having guest speakers sometimes at troop meetings. Eric Dundon got some Firemen to show their truck, and Anthony Rhodes got a real CSI to come.