

Troop 824 News

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

May/June 2003

Troop 824 Attends Annual Memorial Day Good Turn at JB

On May 25th, Gravois Trail District celebrated 53 years of placing American Flags on the graves of deceased military personnel during the Memorial Day Good Turn at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Troop 824 assembled at the National Guard base just



east of St. Bernadette Church with a host of other Scouts and Scouters. The procession began at 12:45 p.m. The ceremony honoring all veterans included lowering the American Flag to half-staff while Taps was played by echoing bugles. This year's guest speaker was Joe Frank, the former American Legion National Commander. This is always a very solemn and moving occasion. The silent march into the cemetery is itself impressive. Well done, Scouts. You bring honor to yourselves and your Troop as you honor those that have served their country.



History of Jefferson Barracks

By Anthony Rhodes

Jefferson Barracks opened in 1826 as a military base. It was named after Thomas Jefferson, who died earlier that year. Throughout our history, many famous Americans had been stationed there at one time or another. These people were: Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee,



Stephan Kearny, Zachary Taylor, U.S. Grant, William T. Sherman, and Philip Sheridan. The base was used during the Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish American War, and both world wars. Today, the National Guard uses the base. A former unknown soldier; Lt. Mike Blassie; was one of the servicemen at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington. With DNA testing, his remains were identified and now have found its final resting place. He is just one of the many thousands to be buried at Jefferson Barracks. Every Memorial Day, area Boy Scouts plant flags on the graves in respect to those who have risked their lives in defense of our nation. In conclusion, Jefferson Barracks symbolizes the brave and valiant people who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



It's Almost Time for Summer Camp Let's Be Prepared

Scoutmaster Fitzgibbons

I will need to have all of the medical forms turned into Mrs. Simpson before we arrive at the Ranch on Sunday, June 22nd. She has been collecting them for weeks at the troop meetings and will continue to do so. June 16th is the 3rd Monday and would normally be a PLC meeting but we will have a regular troop meeting and Mrs. Simpson will need to have them all by then. **If you come to summer camp without a current health form you will be sent home - no exceptions.**

Remember, a **class 2** health form is the one signed by the physician and must not be over 3 years old as of 6/28/03 if you are under 40 and are staying in camp for 48 hours or more and/or wish to participate in any aquatics. If the **class 2** form is not dated within the past year then a **class 1** form must be turned in also. This is the **health history update** and is signed by the parent or guardian.

Please read all of the summer camp packets we have provided you. Doing so will answer many questions that you might have. **Scouts 14 and older who wish to participate in the older Scout program need to fill out and mail the form in the back of the packet by 6/1** if you want a response prior to you attending camp. This is **your** responsibility, not mine.

This year's summer camp is unique in the sense that many of our "regular" adults who usually attend the whole week of summer camp will either not be able to attend at all or will be part time. This is true for me as well as others because we will be traveling to Cimarron N.M. to hike the various Philmont treks. This of course is the 132,000 high adventure Scout camp and will be the Scouting adventure of a lifetime for me at least. Because we will be gone for 2 weeks most of us will have no vacation time left over. We could sure use more adults to attend summer camp either full or part time. Remember, the troop pays for the adults attending.

I will be talking to all of the Scouts about their summer camp schedules over the next couple of weeks. This is the form in the maps and forms packet. There should be 2 in there, fill out both (or make a copy) and keep one and give me the other.

(speaking of Summer Camp) Let's Talk Gadgets

By Mr. Dundon

You know, camp gadgets. You know, the little things that gets a patrol a few extra points at camp.

The little things that get very little thought till the camp

staff is about to grade your site.

This year lets take a little more time to think about the gadgets.

Can't think of a single gadget? How about a few idea's.

Firewood rack	Fire pail stands
Uniform hanger	Clothes lines
Pot holder	Bulletin board stands
Pot lid lifter	Kitchen work table
Trash Tripod	Tool rack
Tent name plaques	Flag pole
Wash Stand	Deck chair
Tent side sticks	Cooking crane

If these don't get you thinking look on the web, search (Camp Gadgets).

Who can come up with the most ingenious gadgets?

Mr. E's blurb goes here...

The Editor will break in here to set up the next series of articles. This Troop does several kinds of events throughout the year... Summer Camp (probably the biggest event of the year excluding High Adventure special events like Philmont... Spring Camporee and Fall Pacao are weekend camping events where we concentrate on Scout Skills and involve Cub Scouts as well... Family events (not Council sanctioned) like Fishin' Derby... Airport hanger tours, bike hikes, Philmont practice hikes, Taum Sauk, Baseball Games, and many other things round out the list. Anyway, there are usually only a few events during the year where a Scout can participate at a higher level than just the teamwork with his Patrol and Troop. That's working on Staff at various Council sanctioned events like Pacao and Camporee. Patrick Fitzgibbons talks about that a bit next. After that we'll have battling crew articles where Dave Bender and Greg Lehn do a fantastic job of describing what they experienced during a Philmont Practice Trek. Finally, Mr. Dundon again turns into the "hiking gourmet" and shows us how we go about putting together Dutch Oven cobblers.

You don't have to be "special" to be on Staff

By Patrick Fitzgibbons

Every year, the Troop goes to Spring Camporee. Did you ever wonder what was so special about the guys on staff and how they got to be on staff? Well, there is nothing special about them really, in fact, the Troop has several Scouts and Scouters serve on staff every year. Serving

on Staff is a great way to enjoy the weekend at Spring Camporee. Not to mention the fact that you get great food and you don't have to scrub pots! The only requirements for being on staff are being a Star Scout and being a member of the LC, so sorry you younger guys, you'll have to wait. But all those who are eligible, being on staff is an opportunity you should consider. It is much better than just sitting around camp all day!

Scouts! Please make an effort to read the following articles. There are no pictures, but if take the time to read these thoughtfully, you'll find that Dave and Greg have painted great pictures with words. Good job, guys.

Philmont Practice Hike

Two Descriptive Narratives

By David Bender and Greg Lehn

David's account begins here, Greg's below (just alphabetical)

Early one Saturday morning, a group of Philmont hopefuls woke up and met at Washington Middle School for the "Sam Baker State Park Philmont practice hike". This was our first overnight hike and trekkers planed to test their gear **and** their preparedness. After all members were accounted for, the group began the two-hour drive from St. Louis to the park. Once there, we toured the visitor center as the Crew Chiefs received maps and helpful instructions from the ranger. Once this was done, we left the lodge, and gathered at the trailhead. Here, food and other crew gear was equally divided and the groups headed off. After less than a half a mile, the two groups split, only to see each other briefly twice for the rest of the weekend. Crew three consisted of David Bender, Chris Efthim, Clayton Greathouse, Doug Boyher, Anthony Rhodes, Patrick Fitzgibbons, Mr. Fitzgibbons, Mr. Efthim, Mr. Greathouse, and Mr. Boyher. Mr. Miller, Mr. Bohn, and Kyle Miller also joined this group as they headed against the suggested trail route to do the "eight"-mile hike to their backpacking camp on the far side of the park. The hike began well, a few hills and a lot of rocks. Although not long after lunch, the trail became tough. The hill that made all others seem like small bumps was ahead and the trail went almost straight up. This was followed by a flat area and then about a mile through a rugged and rocky creek bed. At about the right time a small marker, "Backpack Camp B", appeared.

We all gave a collective sigh of relief and headed for our "home" for the night. Once there, we dropped packs and began setting up the untested tents. As the campsite was constructed, those who'd finished first began to refill the water bottles using water purifying pumps carried for this purpose. After a simple but satisfying meal, the scouts and Scouters sat around the fire, talked about how the map must be wrong and the "eight" miles ended

up being more like eleven. Then, sleep. Next morning, the backpackers awoke to find that their tents were not quite as breathable as they thought they were. Well, that is what these hikes are for! After a short breakfast, we broke camp and again hit the trail. Straight away, we met our first, and by far the hardest challenge of the day, a steep hill up the switchbacks for a several hundred-foot climb. After a short break at the top the hikers moved on to the highest point in the hike, Mudlick Mountain, 1313 feet. A long break awaited the packers as they talked and waited to see if the other group would arrive. They didn't so the hikers continued down the short stretch of road and ran into, you guessed it, the other group. After a short conversation, they continued along the trail that they used the day before. Down the steep hill they had to climb before and over many hidden rocks. One such rock caused the first significant injury of the hike. Kyle Miller slipped on a rock and twisted his knee. Luckily, they were close enough to a shorter path that allowed Kyle to go down the easy way. The rest of the group continued onward and arrived at the cars at about the same time as Kyle and Mr. Miller, who helped Kyle down the trail. After a short lunch and a visit to the park store, the hikers returned to civilization... to showers, soda, and a baseball game. After everything was said and done, the hikers thought that the hike wasn't that bad and that they would gladly do it again, just not right away.

Another Description, Another Crew, a Different Route By Greg Lehn

As the date for Philmont slowly closes in, your fellow scouts and friends have been preparing in every way for the trip. The primary way to prepare is by participating in practice hikes with your crew. [Ed note: *The Philmont hikes are called Treks, and the groups that take them are called Crews*] On April 12th and 13th, our crews set out on a hike on the Sam Baker Trail. Sam Baker is located in southern Missouri, near Greenville. We left Washington MS parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and met up at the trail around 10:00. Soon, we were on the trail. My crew, consists of myself (Greg Lehn), Bryan Rapp, Eric Schrenker, Mike Heins, Travis Dearmont, Dave Marsters, Aaron Chambers, and the adults. We made our way into the hills surrounding the large, Mudlick Mountain. In the first leg of the trip, we stopped in a hiking shelter, a structure like the Adirondacks at Beaumont, on a cliff overlooking a river. A while later, we had hiked down the hill and found that the trail followed a creek leading into that large river. This creek ran down the side of a hill in a series of waterfalls. We stopped and ate lunch on the waterfalls, chilling our feet in the cold water. One highlight while walking up this creek was that we saw the skeleton of a deer that had been picked clean by animals near the trail.

We set off on the trail again and had an uneventful stretch until we met the other group of guys halfway around the trail. We exchanged handshakes and then went on our way. A few hours later we arrived at camp. After quickly setting up our tents, we ate a small dinner. Shortly after clean up, we all went down to the ice-cold creek next to the camp. Some of us cooled our feet, while others went for an all out swim. After that, we relaxed until it was time to go to bed. The next morning, we broke camp and set off for Mudlick Mountain. On the ascent to the summit, we met the other crew on the way down. Again, we exchanged handshakes and kept going up the large hill. At the top, we took a quick break and then made our way back down the hill. We finish in time to see the other group packing into the cars, but we stuck around to have a peanut butter and cracker lunch before we too left for home. Exhausted but glad to know our equipment works.

Cobbler Recipes

By Mr. Dundon

Ed note: Many adults as well as some Scouts are interested in how to make the great Dutch oven cobblers we produce at many Scout outings. So Mr. Dundon has provided the general recipe. (Note: if you're cooking in a kitchen you can cook these in the regular oven in a greased oven proof dish, but it doesn't taste as good as outdoors)

2 - cans of pie filling (your favorite)

1 - box of cake mix (any kind)

5-6 pats of butter

Line a Dutch oven with aluminum foil. (This will keep the pie filling from burning and make clean-up easier)

Dump in the pie filling and spread it evenly.

Sprinkle the cake mix over the top.

Add pats of butter to the top of the cake mix. (The butter helps brown the cake mix)

You will need approximately 20 pieces of charcoal.

Place 5-6 pieces on the bottom and the rest for the top.

Cook for 20 to 25 minutes check often toward the end.

You don't want to burn the cobbler with so many hungry mouths.

Other favorites:

Cherry chocolate chip—Cherry filling, Chocolate chips, Chocolate cake mix

Apple walnut—Apple filling, Walnuts, white or yellow cake mix

Carmel-Apple—Apple filling, White or yellow cake mix,

Carmel ice cream topping

Mixed—apple & peach & cherry (make in the big Dutch)

You can also do:

Apple cinnamon, Peach, Cherry, Blueberry, ... others?

This is guaranteed to put smiles on the scouts and some of the parents too.

If you have any recipes to share give them to Mr. Dundon we'll try them out.

Fishing Derby a Great Success

By Mr. Eppestine

Every year in the Spring, the Troop goes fishin'.

This has been a tradition for many years and the event is held at Sherwood Forrest Camp just outside Lesterville, MO. The story goes *roughly* like this... Troop 824 was at a



state park in the area of Lesterville hiking and camping when rough weather set in and they were cautioned to leave the park they were at due to rapidly rising water. Someone in the troop knew someone at the Camp. A phone call was made (this was before cell phones even). We got permission to stay at the barn there at Sherwood Forrest Camp. I think there was hail and stuff that night. Anyway, we were grateful, and with good Scout spirit, we volunteered to do something for the camp in return for their hospitality. Long story short... we've been returning every year for... how many years, Mr. Z? Long time... many moons. It's a wonderful tradition, and a real privilege as we're the ONLY Scout troop allowed to do this there.

Next time, we'll have more articles from Scouts about this and other events.

Look on the troop's web site for more Fishin' Derby pictures too.



Troop 824 Upcoming Events

(This list is taken directly from the Troop website. If you didn't know, you can just surf on over to www.troop824-gslac.org and get all kinds of current info for the Troop, including pictures.

You might consider printing out this page and taping it to the fridge or other appropriate spot)

May

26 Memorial Day, No Troop Meeting

31 Green Rock Trail Hike, Greensfelder Park, Philmont Practice Hike

June

2 Court of Honor, changed to WMS cafeteria

9 Troop Meeting, Suson Park (you may wear Class B)

14-15 Taum Sauk Trail, Philmont Practice Hike

16 PLC

19 Parent's Meeting

22-28 Summer Camp, S-F Scout Ranch, Camp Gamble, Hubeli Campsite

30 Troop Meeting, Spanky's (?)

July

7 Troop Meeting, Suson Park

8-20 Philmont Expedition

14 Troop Meeting, Suson Park

21 PLC

24 Parents' Meeting

28 Troop Meeting, Suson Park

Please Note: Parents of younger Scouts should volunteer to shadow our veteran event coordinators so the "know how" for putting on events isn't lost.

Unless otherwise noted Troop meetings are held every Monday (3rd Mondays are PLC only) at 7 PM in the Washington Middle School (WMS) cafeteria or at Suson Park during Summer when school isn't in session.

Parents' meetings are now **THIRD** Thursday of the month at **WMS Art Room** (upstairs, through the gym to the far left corner) unless otherwise noted (Also at Suson Park in Summer).

Also, PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER: Scouts MUST be escorted into and out of the building by an adult. We must also insure that once they are on the parking lot, they are supervised until they have transportation. This is important! If we have another hallway discipline infraction, we will lose our meeting place at Washington Middle School.



Just a couple more of the many pictures taken at the Fishing Derby. We'll learn results of the competition at the June 2nd Court of Honor

