

TROOP 824 NEWS

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

November/December 2001

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND WELCOME WEBELOS

Welcome Webelos

By Clif Fitzgibbons, Scoutmaster

On behalf of Troop 824, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the Webelos Scouts and their parents from Packs 825 and 753. Thank you for your interest in our troop. We are really looking forward to your crossing over into Boy Scouts.

By this point in your Cub Scouting career you are probably looking forward to the many more activities that Boy Scouts has to offer. Many of our events are centered around, but not limited to, camping and hiking. Sometimes we stay in cabins (winter cabin campout and Swift Explorer base advancement camp), Adirondacks (3 sided shelters at Beaumont), tree houses at S-F Scout ranch and of course tent camping (summer camp, advancement camp, Fall Pacao, winter freeze out and Spring Camporee). Hiking is another favorite activity of our Scouts. We just returned from Shiloh, TN where we hiked in the Civil War military park. We also hike Tom Sauk mountain (which is the tallest point in Missouri) and the Gateway historical hike which visits points of interest in and around Downtown. Other activities have included Blue's hockey games, Chrysler plant tours and ice skating. Let us not forget we are a service organization and we always participate in Scouting for food and the Memorial Day good turn at Jefferson Barracks National cemetery.

These are just the basic, usual events. Scouts do the event planning each year, and an event comes about through the consent of the Scoutmaster and only if there's enough adult participation. With this wide variety of activities there is something for everyone. I would like to say to the adults that there are plenty of ways to become involved, which is vital if Scouting is to survive, because remember none of these things can take place without you.

Webelos, we look forward to your crossing over into Troop 824. If any questions please call me at 842-7195. Thank You

Shiloh Wrap-Up

by Diane Epeptine

October 25-28th marked the Troop's bi-annual trip to the Shiloh National Military Park in TN. A total of 28 scouts and 35 of their family members walked some 1238 miles at the very least (some that hiked didn't fill out for awards). Not to mention the 20 dog-miles.

As is the case for many of the troop's events, the coordinators rely on the help of many others to make the event a success. I would like to thank:

For generating participation—Mr. Tom Pleimann for his talk at the August Court of Honor, Mr. Bob Scheppers for arranging our Civil War speaker, and to the LC for their encouraging words to the Scouts who had never attended

For meals—Mr. Rich Veinfurt for finding us a lower cost alternative for our evening meals and doing the grocery shopping (along with wife Jan), and to the breakfast and lunch crews for helping out

For their experience—Tom, Nancy, and Michael Pleimann and Neil Phipps for leading several of the hikes

And to those who helped coordinate the paperwork for the individual hikes—You know who you are, it was a tremendous help.

To those of you that went on hikes 5 & 6, don't forget to get your credential cards in to me ASAP.

If anyone has any suggestions for the next trip in two years, let me know while the thoughts are still fresh in your head and I'll include them in the notes for future coordinators.

Service Project

By Patrick Fitzgibbons

On November 3, the troop did a service project. The project



Look, there was a concrete pad under all those weeds.

took place near the end of Schuesler Road, which is where we park the Troop trailers. The Troop keeps its three trailers here free of charge (which, by the way, saves us a lot of money).

In order to return the favor to the owner, the Troop cleared a good amount of brush, cleaned the place up, and cleared off a

large concrete pad so that the owner could park a trailer on it. The project took only about half the day, thanks to help from the many Scouts and adults who worked hard.

Winter Cabin Campout

By Peter Eppestine

Every winter in early December, the Troop goes to Beaumont to have an outing in the cabins there. Each patrol teaches the incoming Webelos some skills that will be useful to them after they cross over — fire-building, knot tying, and the like — as well as letting them see how our Troop works and letting them meet some of us. As I said, we stay in cabins, which is a nice break from camping in tents. There is no trouble setting up or taking things down, we get bunk beds, and each cabin is heated. We only have to worry about leaving them in better shape than we found them.

For meals, the adults buy all of the food and each patrol is assigned a meal to help cook for the Troop (and our guests, of course), which is much less work overall than having each patrol cook for themselves. Between meals and skills, we tend to get some time to ourselves and generally have a lot of fun, especially if it snows. On Saturday night, we build a camp fire and do some skits or whatnot and maybe have some great Dutch Oven cobbler afterwards. The date for this event is Nov. 30 - Dec. 2. We hope to see a good turnout.

Court of Honor

By David Bender

The November Court of Honor was held on the 12th, but the 12th of what month? As most of you may know, the date on the program read February 12th instead of November 12th. The date, for those of you who aren't mathematically inclined, was 10 months off. This mistake was made by Mike Heins who was the night's master of ceremonies (MC). Mike made up for his mistake by moving the court of honor along letting the ceremony end at about eight o'clock. Announcements included the cabin campout with the Webelos, scouting for food pick up, and re-chartering. Ten Scouts received rank advancements ranging from Scout to Life. Fifteen merit badges were also given out, twelve of which were eagle required. The assistant scoutmasters did a wonderful job filling in for Mr. Fitzgibbons while he was out hunting.

Merit Badges

By David Bender

Merit badges become extremely important for the ranks of Star, Life, Eagle, and the Eagle Palms. Merit badges for most people are earned at summer camps which is the easiest way to earn them. Some merit badges, however, have to be earned in a non-summer camp situation. Since the conditions are different in a non-summer camp situation, many people get easily confused as to the procedure to receive the merit badge. Step one is to get a merit badge card. You can get these from Mr. Eppestine. He can also give you the phone number for a counselor near you. Remember that it is important to get some of the eagle required merit badges from counselors from out of the troop. After you get the merit badge card, fill it out

with your name, the name of the merit badge, troop 824, etc.. When you are finished filling out the card, give it to Mr. Fitzgibbons to be signed. After he signs it, you can start work on the merit badge. Start by calling the counselor and asking them if they will be your counselor for the merit badge. Your counselor will probably set up a schedule of meetings until you finish all of the requirements. When you are finished with the merit badge and the counselor has signed the main part of the card, filled out the left side (GSLAC Advancement Record) and has taken off the right side (Counselor's Record), have Mr. Fitzgibbons sign it again and turn the card with the right side still attached to the advancement chairman, Mr. Eppestine. You will get the main part of the card back when you get the patch at a Court of Honor. **DO NOT LOSE THIS CARD!** Council needs this if you use the merit badge for the rank of eagle. This is also the only proof that you did the merit badge. There are many different merit badges available and they are just all waiting to be earned. If you can't find a good badge to work on, just ask Mr. Eppestine. That's his job. Have fun working on your merit badges, and don't forget to work to get as many as you can.

Advancement Camp

Coming up at the Swift Explorer base at S-F... While the August Advancement Camp focuses mainly on rank advancement, the January Advancement Camp focuses on merit badges. It's not too early to be thinking about which merit badges you will be working on and being Courteous and lining up a counselor prior to the last minute. BoR's for Star and above require a phone call... no exceptions, Mr. E is at 487-6341

Notes from the PLC

By David Bender

David Bender, Patrick Fitzgibbons, Greg Lehn, Levi Tucker, Wes Baxter, Bryan Rapp, Peter Eppestine, Adam Veinfurt, Aaron Chambers, and Mike Heins were in attendance. The following topics were covered at this month's PLC meeting. Skills and flags for the next month was assigned. The requirements for position of Troop Guide were discussed and plan to be amended by the adults at the next parent meeting. Summer camp opinions were gathered and the vote is that we should be going to South Dakota. Skills for the cabin campout were given and the patrol leaders should be getting together with you to organize the skills. A reminder on the dates for the freeze out was given. Patrol leaders were asked to start getting their patrols ready, especially if the weather is going to be cold. The meeting was then dismissed.

Skill Ideas Needed

By David Bender

For all of you present and past patrol leaders, you know that good skill ideas are hard to come by. So if any of you scouts or adults have a good idea that you would like to see, email it to David Bender at benderDF@aol.com. All ideas need to be submitted to me by the PLC of each month so that the ideas can be discussed at the PLC meeting. Also do not to send any stupid ideas like paintball or a used one like fire building

because they will not be used. Thanks for you input.

Christmas Is Coming

Do you have everything you need in the way of gear for winter camping? You might want to include some necessities on your list to Santa. The Winter Freeze-Out is not that far away.

Next Issue

We hope to get back to our regular publication schedule after the holidays and should have the next newsletter out the first week of January. Please try to get your articles to us no later than December 28th. We ask coordinators to send us the time, date, location, cost, and your phone number if you want the event listed in Upcoming Events. This will save us quite a bit of time.

Troop's Charter Renewal

By John Bohn

- ✓ Annually, each scout unit must provide the following to council as part of the charter renewal process:
- ✓ Updated list of all registered youth members
- ✓ Updated list of all registered adult members
- ✓ For each service project in which the unit participated:
 - Description of the service project,
 - Number of hours of youth participation,
 - Number of hours of adult participation
- ✓ Statistics on:
 - Activities,
 - Advancements,
 - No. of youth with 12 or more service hrs for the year,
 - Trained Adults
- ✓ A completed charter renewal application, and
- ✓ A troop check

While most of the above information can be extracted with "reasonable ease" from troop records, input is needed for the first two items.

One packet per registered family was distributed at the November 19, 2001 Court of Honor. For those families not in attendance, that packet was mailed later in that week. Each packet contains a cover letter with detailed instructions. Just fill out the forms, write a check, and turn in the material. Doug Boyher has volunteered to collect all of the responses and process all of the charter renewal paperwork and application. Doug can be reached by phone at 314-849-8351 and by mail at 6200 Brogan Dale (63128).

Let's get all of the responses to Doug by December 14, 2001. This will allow him time to complete all of the paperwork, have a relaxing holiday season, and still get the information back to council before its due date in early January 2002.

Your immediate attention to your piece of the troop's charter renewal process is most appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Doug or myself (John Bohn, 314-487-7525).

What follows is a listing of Upcoming Events but this time it's

listed chronologically. You might want to cut this part of the page off and put it on the fridge with a magnet.

Recent Events

- ✓ **November 10 & 17** Scouting for Food was a great success. About 2 million cans were collected. We'll probably see more statistical results in an upcoming Duffel Bag.
- ✓ **November 12** (or was it Feb 12th? Sorry, Mike, we couldn't resist) Court of Honor was a great success, even without the Scoutmaster. 10 rank advancements, 15 merit badge's

Upcoming Events

- ✓ **November 19** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons'
 - ✓ **November 26** Troop Meeting at WMS
 - ✓ **November 29** Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM at WMS
 - ✓ **November 30-December 2**—Webelos Cabin Campout at Beaumont. \$15 Coordinators: Mr. Efthim & Mr. Dundon, with Mr. Noce and Mr. Biehl assisting. This is a big event, we cook for about one hundred people.
 - ✓ **December 3** Troop Meeting at WMS
 - ✓ **December 10** Troop Meeting at WMS
 - ✓ **December 17** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons'
 - ✓ **December ???**—Ice Skating or some other "mixer" type event to include Webelos crossing over. See Ron Schrenker
 - ✓ **January 7** Troop Meeting at WMS
 - ✓ **January 14** Troop Meeting at WMS
 - ✓ **January 21** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons' (No School)
 - ✓ **January 24** Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM at WMS
 - ✓ **January 25-27**—Advancement Camp at Swift. \$\$\$ At this writing, we're not sure who the coordinator(s) are
 - ✓ **January 28** Troop Meeting at WMS w/ Trautwein Webelos
 - ✓ **February 4** Troop Meeting at WMS w/ Hagemann Webelos
 - ✓ **February 11** Troop Meeting at WMS
 - ✓ **February 15-17**—Winter Freeze Out at Beaumont. Since we didn't do Pacao, this one is sorta mandatory. We need coordinators. Details to follow.
 - ✓ **February 18** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons' (No School)
 - ✓ **February 25** Court of Honor at Concord Trinity United Methodist. Bea Rouse & Linda Rose coordinating
 - ✓ **February 28** Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM 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 4th Thursdays of the month at WMS cafeteria unless otherwise noted

Thoughts from the SPL

To the troopers of Troop 824:

As SPL for about three months now, I have seen some positive changes, and some problems that still plague us. One major problem on everyone's mind is the troop meetings. Over the past several years, troop meetings have definitely fallen below par. I believe, along with most other people, that the main problem is skills. Skills have become a chore rather than a valuable learning experience. Could we not do something to improve these skills?? Many things have been suggested, and even tested, most unsuccessful. I believe a large problem is patrol spirit. Over the years patrol spirit has not existed. To try to remedy the situation I have started a "Skill of the Month" award. Hopefully scouts will show more interest in giving skills, and maybe have some fun with it. Overall, if we could improve skills, I believe our troop meetings would no longer be a boring weekly task that does nothing more than make us miss Monday Night Football. David Pleimann, SPL

Shiloh in Pictures (oops, not yet)

Before we departed for the Shiloh hikes, Mr. Eppestine sent everyone an email with some last minute details and an internet link to a great web site about the Civil War. It includes some pictures

of the Shiloh Military Park as it is now. For those of you that didn't get that email, surf to this site

www.civilwaralbum.com

This picture of the sign at the entrance to the park is interesting because the sign isn't there anymore. Those of you hiking trails 3&4 should remember that the compass hike begins at about this spot. Now you know what that sign looked like. Wonder why they never replaced it? The pictures on the web site focus on monuments to the history that was the battle of Shiloh. My photographic focus for the newsletter is on people. If you want to see the history, go to the web site... I highly encourage it. If you want pictures of the troop at Shiloh, you will have to wait until next issue. The reasons for this are many... first, this issue is already four pages and is late. Second, I still don't have what I consider enough pictures and one-liners to tell the complete story. I don't have many pictures of the groups doing hikes 1&2 and none for hikes 5&6. We also sort of picked up a troop mascot, Shiloh the dog. That story and pictures and all the rest of it will be a good fit for our next issue which should be back to normal and come out some time during the first week of January.

The discipline it takes to make Eagle helps in other areas too. A picture similar to the one on the right appeared in Oakville Call. Who is "Chris Watkins?"

A Scout is... Reverent

Thanksgiving is almost here, and that means a school holiday, probably some football games to watch, and surely a big meal of turkey with all the trimmings. It's a great time for everybody. But before the holiday passes, take a few minutes to think about what it really means. Thanksgiving started out to be a time for giving thanks to God for his blessings. We should make sure to keep that thought in our celebration today. That doesn't mean we have to spend the whole holiday time in prayer. By all means we should enjoy the feast and the football. But we should also remember that a Scout is reverent, and part of that point of the Scout Law is praying and giving thanks at appropriate times. So when you sit down to your big Thanksgiving dinner, don't forget to offer your thanks to God, not only for the food but for all your other blessings.

On a Side Note... Scouts can do other things



This is a photo of Troop 824's own Eagle Scout Craig Watkins. He's really wailing on the sax during a recent Mehlville Marching Panthers band competition. If you look closely, you will also see Adam Veinfurt on drums. Our troop has 8 guys in the Marching Panthers.

