



Troop 323 News

Volume 3, Issue8
April 2007

Boy Scout Troop 323 First Presbyterian Church, Levittown, NY



"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight"

Troop Committee

Paul McCrea – Chairman
Sheldon Boyd – Charter Rep.
Arthur Goldman
Ann Harris
Jody Herrmann - Treasurer
Robert Howells – Summer Camp
Mynelle Howells – Secretary
Andrew Lazar – Advancement
Rich Maier
Thomas Prykuta
Kathy Reilly - Fundraising

Adult Staff

Jerry Manning – Scoutmaster
Jerry Cordeiro - ASM
Ed Dietze – ASM
Vinnie Giacalone – ASM
Art Herrmann – ASM
Ed Jablonowski – ASM
Andy Kaufman – ASM
Matt Kaufman – ASM
Bob Loughran – ASM
Phil Pecoraro – ASM
John Schmidt – ASM
Dave Schuster – ASM
John Sheehy – ASM

Scout Leadership

Michael P. – SPL
Sam G. – ASPL
Matt R. - ASPL

March Trip – Battleship Cove

Our March campout brought the Troop to Fall River, Massachusetts for an overnight at Battleship Cove. Battleship Cove is a historical museum featuring four WWII vintage military vessels: the battleship USS Massachusetts, the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy, the submarine USS Lionfish and the Hiddensee, a Soviet missile corvette. Both the Battleship and the Destroyer provide for overnight accommodations and for this trip we would bunk on the destroyer. After our arrival at the Cove, we were escorted to our quarters, a small confined space two levels below deck with bunks narrowly spaced three to five high and suspended by chains. One level above our sleeping quarters was a small wardroom where we were able to spread out a bit, eat, read or just relax during breaks between exhibits and activities. We spent the day exploring the ships and displays, sometimes below decks and sometimes outside.

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Scoutmaster's Minute:



Greetings and Happy Spring!

If you haven't already noticed, the Troop's been extremely busy lately. I don't know about you folks, but for me, it seems as if the year is just flying by. We've had some really nice trips recently and you'll read more about some of them later in this newsletter.

Speaking of our trips, it seems as if most people took the message in my last Scoutmaster's Minute to heart, as the attendance on our outings has significantly increased. Thanks for listening and keep up the good work. Your sacrifices now will pay dividends later when it comes to your advancements.

Before I close this message, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their outstanding support of the Troop's program. As your Scoutmaster, I feel I am truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of Assistant Scoutmasters, a supportive Troop Committee and parents who are willing to do whatever it takes to help the Scouts of this Troop. And to the Scouts of Troop 323 – you are an outstanding group of young men and I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster. Keep up the good work!

Yours in Scouting,

Jerry Manning

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It was a beautiful day, if a bit breezy being right on the water. As always, the boys got a kick out of being able to turn the hand cranks on the 40mm guns and rotate them toward imaginary targets across the river or in the sky. Early evening was highlighted by an orientation film featuring the wartime exploits of the Massachusetts. We learned that Big Mamie, as she was called, was launched in September 1941 and went into action a year later as part of Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa. While cruising off Casablanca, Big Mamie landed five sixteen inch shells on the French battleship Jean Bart silencing her guns and inflicting heavy damage on buildings and docks nearby. In February 1943, she steamed through the Panama Canal to join the action in the Pacific where she fought in the New Guinea-Solomon's area, the Gilbert Islands and the Marshall Islands. After modernization in 1944, Big Mamie returned to action in the invasion of Palau Islands and eventually pounded Iwo Jima and Okinawa with her 16" guns prior to the invasion in 1945. At Kamaishi Japan, Battleship Massachusetts fired the last American 16" projectile of the war. With the onset of peace, the Massachusetts was deactivated and remained in the Reserve Fleet until 1962 when she was ordered sold for scrap. Her wartime crew lobbied to save the ship as a memorial and with the assistance of Massachusetts school children, raised enough money to bring Big Mamie to Fall River in 1965.



At the conclusion of the orientation we had the opportunity to ask questions of a gentleman who had served on the

Massachusetts for her entire tour. He fielded question after question until it was time for us to move on to the Wardroom for dinner. After dinner we continued to explore the ship. Some went back to the Destroyer while others took part in programs offered in knot tying, Morse code, and even storytelling. Taps sounded at 23:00 hours making for a long day and with lights out, we crawled into bunks for the night. Reveille sounded at 06:30 and soon we were headed back to the battleship for a breakfast of French toast, hash browns, sausage, fruit and juice. Shortly after breakfast we packed up our gear for the long drive home. Reflecting back, it's a pretty interesting way to learn some history, while almost living it at the same time. It sure would be neat to be able to turn those 16" gun turrets...

Congratulations are in order!

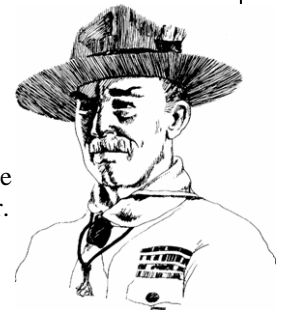


Congratulations Ian, on attaining the highest rank within Scouting. The realization of this outstanding achievement will undoubtedly lead to successes and accomplishments throughout your life. The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. Bully!

And...

Congratulations Mr. Manning!

First, Cubmaster of the Year and now, Scoutmaster of the Year! Rough Rider District Executive Jay Tewes described him as one the finest Scoutmasters he's had the honor of working with. Of course that's no surprise to us in Troop 323. Mr. Manning's tremendous dedication is evident each time we gather as a Troop! Congratulations! And Bully to you!



Important Announcements

Camporee – By the time you read this we'll be headed to Schiff Scout Reservation for the Rough Rider District Camporee. There will be Civil War Re-enactors, demonstrations, period cooking & Black Powder demos. There will also be a patrol cooking contest. Patrol Flag contest & new this year, the model patrol campsite contest. Watch for a full report in the next newsletter.

Summer Camp - Summer camp is the heart of a great troop program. It is all about opportunities for personal growth, adventure and advancement! It is important that all Scouts have the opportunity and ability to have a great summer camp experience. Last year at camp, our Scouts earned 74 Merit Badges. In addition, our First Year Scouts attended the Dan Beard program geared toward advancement to First Class. As usual, we'll be attending camp at Onteora Scout Reservation, in Livingston Manor, NY.



Coming Events

May

3	Troop Meeting	Troop Meeting CANCELLED! There will be a brief meeting at FPC for all going to Camporee.
4-6	Troop Camping	TRC Camporee – Schiff Scout Reservation
10	Troop Meeting	Program: Map & Compass/ Orienteering (Scorpions)
11	Troop Event	Mandatory rehearsal for Ian's Eagle Court of Honor (7:30 PM @ FPC)
12	Troop Event	Ian's Eagle Court of Honor (4:00 PM @ FPC)
17	Troop Meeting	Program: Map & Compass/ Orienteering (Scorpion)
24	Troop Meeting	Program: Map & Compass/ Orienteering (Scorpions)
31	Troop Meeting	Program: Map & Compass/ Orienteering (Scorpions)

June

2	PLC	June PLC & Annual Planning Conference 3:00 PM @ Mr. Manning's (BBQ dinner will be served)
7	Troop Meeting	Program: Court of Honor
14	Troop Meeting	Troop Meeting CANCELLED due to Regents/finals week. Meeting moved to 6/21.
14	District Event	Rough Rider District Dinner (Reservations a must)
21	Troop Meeting	End of year party

July

5	Summer Camp Meeting	Mandatory meeting for Scouts who are attending summer camp & their parents. (7:30 PM @ FPC)
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June Camping - Eaton's Neck



Get ready for our final trip of the year – beach camping at Eaton's Neck on the Long Island Sound – Scheduled for the weekend of June 29 to July 1. Eaton's Neck is located at the end of Northport on the east side of Huntington Bay. Be prepared for some fun in the sun! Also, don't forget to bring your fishing gear because rumor has it that there are more than few "big ones" swimming in the harbor. In addition, we'll be guests of the United States Coast Guard and we'll be getting a tour of their facility. Sign-up for this trip is coming soon. Watch for it. This is a trip you won't want to miss!

Scout Skills – Are you equipped to survive?

A Scout should be prepared for anything from an unplanned night outdoors to a week or more in the wilderness. For survival, remember the "rule of threes"; You can usually survive 3 hours without shelter (shelter is defined as protection from the elements and includes anything from the clothes on your back to tent, snow cave, improvised shelter, etc.), 3 days without water and 3 weeks without food. The order here is significant i.e. prepare a shelter first, then collect water, then look for food. Maximize your survival chances by carrying the following:

In a "bivy bag" for an unplanned night outdoors:

- 2 large garbage bags (shelter or emergency rain gear) OR a 10' X 10' sheet of plastic
- 50' of parachute cord (#550 cord)
- Emergency space blanket
- Metal cup - so you can heat your Jello
- Jello with sugar (NOT NUTRASWEET)
- lighter or waterproof matches
- 2 plumbers candles
- knife
- whistle
- compass
- flashlight (small enough to fit in your mouth)
- stocking cap
- spare socks (double as mittens)

It all fits in a fairly compact stuff sack and, only weighs about 20 ounces. ALWAYS CARRY RAIN GEAR, both tops and bottoms, even on short day hikes. Always carry a map of the area, a first aid kit, extra food and clothing. Also consider carrying a 2ft x 3ft piece of closed-cell foam pad (especially in cold or wet conditions). Makes a great chair and it doubles as an emergency pad - ever lie down on the snow or wet cool soil with an injury for 30 minutes?

For the ability to survive for an extended period of time consider carrying the following survival items in addition to the above:

- Signal Mirror (metal, not glass - polish the inside cover of your carry case)
- Fire Starters (Cotton balls in Petroleum jelly, etc.)
- Wire-blade survival saw
- Fish hooks, 25ft. line, split shot sinkers
- Dental floss (can be used for lashing a shelter)
- 25ft snare wire (and know how to use it)
- Sunblock & Sunglasses
- Water purification tablets
- Pen & paper are good for keeping track of events and time
- Survival cards

Most important is a positive mental attitude and a good knowledge base of skills.

www.troop323.org

PATROL CORNERS

◆ Scorpion Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Program Patrol: May 10, 17, 24 & 31

As the Program Patrol for May, we'll cover Map & Compass, Orienteering and GPS over a four week period. Draft program planners were submitted and approved at the April PLC. Details for all program weeks are being finalized. Join us for a fun and exciting program.

There are only a few weeks left to complete First Class requirements before the June Court of Honor. See what you need and let's get it done!

◆ Panther Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Service Patrol: May 10, 17, 24 & 31

The Panther patrol did a great job conducting the April program on camping and wilderness survival. On the Clear Lake campout, four Scouts, using techniques they learned from the Troop program, built improvised shelters using only materials on hand. Then they slept beneath their shelters on Saturday night. Check the Troop website for photos.

◆ Shark Patrol ◆

The Shark Patrol has been busy! At the Troop's Swim Night at the Nassau County Aquatic Center they completed the Second and First Class swim requirements (6 requirements in all!).

At Clear Lake they completed a nature hike where they identified native plants and signs of wildlife. They discussed the buddy system and safe hiking completing more requirements! They also learned a lot about camping as a Patrol. Great job Sharks! Remember guys, the fastest and easiest way to advance is to go camping. Take a good look at your Scout Handbook and start planning some more advancement for Camporee. You guys will earn Tenderfoot in no time!

◆ Venture Patrol ◆

Possible future Venture Patrol activities:

- Mountain bike training at Bethpage State Park leading up to a day trip to Lake Minnewaska for awesome scenery & trails.
- Caving at Chimney Mountain in the Adirondacks
- Catskill or Adirondack Mountains backpacking (good Philmont training)
- Kayaking Peconic River or Bay
- Slide/ Wittenberg/ Cornell Mtn. hike
- Minnewaska cliff hike

What else Venturers?