



Troop 323 News

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February/ March 2007

Boy Scout Troop 323 First Presbyterian Church, Levittown, NY



Trustworthy:

Be true to your work, your word,
and your friend.

-- Henry David Thoreau

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
Thomas Prykuta
Kathy Reilly - Fundraising

Adult Staff

Jerry Manning – Scoutmaster
Jerry Cordiero - 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

February Trip – Parent-Son at Camp Delmont

After several years holding the Parent-Son campout in April at Resica Falls, we changed things up a bit this year by scheduling it for February and camping at Camp Delmont in eastern Pennsylvania. Expecting a large group, we reserved two cabins and set one up for the adults and one for the boys. The campout was the culmination of the February program on cooking and the boys decided that they would demonstrate some of the cooking skills they had practiced by serving dinner to their parents.

Hoping for snow, they had planned some sledding during the day with a hike as a backup plan. Dinner would follow and then an evening campfire. When the snow failed to come through it was up to the backup plan, but first a hearty breakfast was provided for all by the Pecoraro-Kaufman team. (Continued on Page 2)



Scoutmaster's Minute: Spring Commitment (*Again*)

Yes, it's that time of the year again – Spring! And with the advent of Spring, everything around us comes to life – flowers begin to bloom, grass starts turning green and leaves appear on the trees. In addition to the natural world, our personal world begins to “spring” (*pun intended*) into action, as well.

Outdoor sports, such as soccer, baseball and lacrosse begin their seasons and school activities and field trips become more commonplace. And guess what – our Troop's activities become busier as well! We've got some great outings and activities planned for this Spring: camping at Clear Lake, Scoutwalk at Eisenhower Park, the Camporee at Schiff and our end-of-the-year campout at the Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station.

I need the cooperation of all Scouts and their parents to ensure the success of these activities. I need – no, the Troop needs, every Scout to make a personal commitment to attend as many of these activities as possible. Please be sure that I'm not asking anyone to forgo all your other activities and games; but what I am asking for is a compromise between Scouting and your other activities. You have your Troop schedule and you have the schedule for your other activities. Compare them and identify the weekend conflicts. Then decide which activities you'll attend. For example, if you have four weekend conflicts between soccer and scouts, make a commitment to attend two activities for both soccer and scouts. That's a fair compromise and it will enable you to enjoy all of your activities equally. The Scout and adult leaders of this Troop have devoted a great deal of their time in planning and organizing these activities for benefit of each and every Scout in the Troop and it's really a shame when only 10 or 12 Scouts attend a weekend camping trip. The Troop's schedule is published far enough in advance so that everyone should be able to incorporate a fair and reasonable amount of Troop outings into their schedule. It's also the most important way for our newer Scouts to advance, as well.

Please make a commitment this Spring to help make your Scouting team (i.e. – your Patrol and your Troop) a winner. I guarantee you'll be glad you did!

Good Scouting to you all,

Jerry Manning
Scoutmaster

(Delmont from Page 1)

ASM Phil and SPL Mike and ASMs Andy and Matt had driven to camp the night before our arrival to set up and to prepare a terrific breakfast that was waiting for us upon arrival. The boys set up the Knollbrook cabin, a large open cabin with an attached kitchen area. Two wood stoves warmed the space and a row of picnic tables were arranged end to end down the center. Bunks were built into the walls three high on both sides of the center space providing plenty of room for gear storage and sleeping. Because there was only a thin layer of snow on the ground, unsuitable for sledding, we opted for the hike.



The Camp Ranger had provided a map with a hand drawn trail for us to use. The hike would be pretty close to five miles and circle most of the camp. We prepared sandwiches for a trail lunch and set off. The snow was crusted over making for some challenging footwork as we descended the hillside to a cluster of dilapidated lean-tos and a partly frozen stream crossing. Climbing the far side we searched for the trail and continued along an obvious but unmarked path. After much checking and rechecking of map and compass, we decided we were no longer on the intended trail. We returned to the lean-tos and stopped for lunch. Pouring over the map, we developed a new strategy; we would hike back up to the top of the ridge and look for the trail from above.



If we could locate it we would go on, if not, we would plot

a course back to the cabin and come up with a new plan.

Although optimistic, at the top of the ridge we still could find no sign of the trail, so we headed back toward the cabin. Half the group decided they would go on with the hike, heading down to the lake and picking up the trail by the side of the Unami Creek. With softer snow and an established path, we made good time covering nearly five miles in total and enjoying sights like the frozen creek, animal tracks, and many beaver-cut tree stumps. We made our way back to camp and the boys began dinner preparations. Dinner selections included delicacies such as 'Coca-Cola Chicken', 'Philly Cheese Steak', made in a Dutch Oven, and Chicken & Veggies Dutch Oven style. Mr. Pecoraro made enough BBQ chicken to feed a small army and we all feasted in the Scout's cabin. The evening ended with a campfire and chocolate chip cookies. Soon all were settled in bunks for the night. Sunday morning brought the typical routine of breaking down camp and before long we were headed home, another campout complete. All had a good time, learned something new and began to look ahead to our next campout at Battleship Cove.



Important Announcements

Clear Lake - Last chance to sign up for Clear Lake is at the April 12th Troop meeting. Camping is the fastest way to advancement! **Cost is only \$10**

Camporee - Come join us for a great weekend. 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. **Signup April 12th Cost: \$15**

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. **Sign up for camp on April 12th with a \$50 Deposit.**



Coming Events

April

1	PLC	7pm, Mr. Manning's
3	Troop Activity	Swim Night, Nassau County Aquatic Center
12	Troop Meeting	Program: Camping/ Wilderness Survival (Panthers)
19	Troop Meeting	Program: Camping/ Wilderness Survival (Panthers)
20-22	Troop Camping	Clear Lake Scout Camp, Putnam Valley, NY
26	Troop Meeting	Program: Camping/ Wilderness Survival (Panthers)
29	PLC	4pm, Mr. Manning's (May PLC)

May

3	Troop Meeting	Program: Camping/ Wilderness Survival (Panthers)
4-6	Troop Camping	TRC Camporee – Schiff Scout Reservation
10	Troop Meeting	Program: Map & Compass/ Orienteering (Scorpions)
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

7	Troop Meeting	Program: Court of Honor
14	Troop Meeting	End of year party

Scout Skills – The ABCs of Lost & Found

The following advice comes from the March-April issue of Scouting Magazine.

Becoming lost in the wilderness is easier than you think. The keys to being found include preparing well, responding correctly, and carrying a well-stocked survival kit.

The ABCs of preparation:

“A” is ‘Always tell someone exactly where you’re going and exactly when you’ll be back’. Be specific: Outline your precise route, right down to your intended campsite. Leave information with someone at home and also check in with ranger stations and fill out permits. Then, don’t deviate from your plan.

“B” is ‘Be prepared’. This means educating yourself about local conditions and carrying appropriate gear.

“C” is ‘Carry a survival kit’. The contents should meet three needs: shelter, fire, and signaling. We’ll cover the specifics of survival kits in a future column.

Vigilance can be as important as navigation skills. Maintain a constant awareness of where you are and how to get back to where you started.

What do you do if you do become lost? The Scout Handbook tells us to remember the acronym “STOP” – Stay Calm, Think, Observe and Plan.

The most important thing is to stop and stay calm. Eat and drink something. Make a fire. It provides warmth and psychological support, and it can be seen from the air by rescuers.

Then start to think, observe and plan: Consider how you got to where you are and where you went wrong. Go back in your mind to your last known point. Could you have missed a turn and followed a game path? When did you last see a feature you could identify?

If this process doesn’t help you to successfully backtrack, then you probably shouldn’t continue on. If you’ve left a record of your plans, just stay put and wait for help to arrive.

If you’ve followed the ABCs of preparation, there’s no reason why you shouldn’t be found within 12 hours. Make yourself big and visible, especially from the air. Use clothes, fire, sticks, signaling devices.

Of course, we all know that we should never be without a buddy. Buddies can help each other stay calm and make better decisions.

April Camping - Clear Lake



This is a tent-camping trip covering basic camping skills for the new Scouts and wilderness survival skills for the more experienced Scouts.

Menus & duty rosters are due by the April 12th Troop meeting. **Patrol Leaders: be sure to have a patrol meeting over the spring break to accomplish this task!**

Don't miss out on the fun and some great advancement opportunities!

www.troop323.org

PATROL CORNERS

◆ Scorpion Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Program Patrol: May 10, 17, 24 & 31

Attention Scorpions! Most of you are well on your way to First Class rank. Remember our goal is "First Class in our first year". Review your Scout handbook to see what you still need to complete. Let's set up some patrol meetings to get it done.

Also, 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. Next we'll have a few Patrol Meetings to work out the details. We'll have final planners available for review and approval at the May PLC.

◆ Panther Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Program Patrol: Apr 12, 19, 26, May 3

Program Theme: Camping/ Wilderness Survival

Service Patrol: May 10, 17, 24 & 31

The Panther patrol is conducting the April program on camping and wilderness survival. Interesting and vital skills for every Scout. We're looking for ideas for putting these lessons into good use at the April campout. What can you suggest?

◆ Shark Patrol ◆

The Shark Patrol is off to a great start covering several advancement requirements in the few weeks they've been part of the Troop.

Troop meetings are great but remember guys, the fastest and easiest way to advance is to go camping. The April campout at Clear Lake provides the opportunity to set up and sleep in your own tent, plan and cook your own meals and work together as a patrol. All early rank requirements. In addition we'll go for a hike looking for signs of wildlife and identifying native plants. More rank requirements! So don't miss it. Last chance to sign up is April 12th.

Shark Patrol Leader: Nick C.

Assistant Patrol Leader: Joe F.

Troop Guides: Sean L., Mike C., & Zack S.

Adult Advisor: Mr. Schmidt

◆ Venture Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Service Patrol: Apr 12, 19, 26, May 3

Trip Report: Six members of the venture patrol went skiing at Shawnee Mountain in the Poconos on March 11th. This was part of the Scout Weekend promotion held annually by a local Scout Troop. Conditions were great and we had a blast! Although snowboards were an option, everyone opted for skis and after group lesson for the inexperienced, we set out to cover the slopes. Steven, the only experienced skier, served as guide leading the several of the others on a tour of the mountain. Mid-day found most of us gathered in the lodge for a quick lunch break. Just as we were wondering if Andrew would join us, there was a spectacular crash on the slope right in front of the lodge's main window. "Hey, that looked like Andrew!" someone exclaimed. And indeed, much to our amusement, it was! Not to be slowed at all, he got up, brushed himself off and skied right back to the lift for another run. Bully Andrew! Some found skiing not to their liking and preferred the comfort of the lodge and game room. In all, it was a good first outing for the Venture Patrol, and hopefully the first of many. What's next?