



Troop 323 News

Volume 3, Issue 5
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Boy Scout Troop 323 First Presbyterian Church, Levittown, NY



"REVERENT - Believe in anything that you want to believe in, but keep God at the top of it. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience. Without Him, you are just biding time."

-John Wayne

Troop Committee

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

Adult Staff

Jerry Manning – Scoutmaster
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

January Trip – IGLOO!

Just in the nick of time! After weeks and weeks of waiting for winter to make an appearance, we finally had the prospect of some cold, winter-like weather for our "Igloo" trip. Disappointed by warm temperatures and rain last year, it had been a while since we were able to really practice our cold weather camping skills.

The forecast was for very cold temperatures but unfortunately, no snow. Lucky for us, a clipper came by on Friday night and left about 2 or 3 inches of snow over Northwestern New Jersey. When we arrived at Allamuchy on Saturday morning we were greeted by... well not a winter wonderland, but there was snow for us to sleep on. Unlike most of our past "Igloo" trips, we secured two cabins for this trip. This would enable the Scorpions, none of whom are yet at the First Class rank, to participate.

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Scoutmaster's Minute: Make It Happen

Greetings everyone!

Time is moving by quickly. Here we are at the end of January 2007 and winter's finally arrived. Before you know it, we'll be back to wearing shorts and preparing for summer camp at Onteora.

Speaking of time moving by quickly, how's your advancement coming along? Most of the younger scouts are progressing quite nicely and they seem to be catching up to most of the older scouts. What's wrong with that picture? Well, nothing's really wrong with it, but it does seem to be happening. One explanation could be school. Yes, high school is sometimes more difficult than middle school. It could also be that as you guys get older, your interests get more varied – maybe some of you play sports or participate in band activities. These are all valuable pursuits and reasonable explanations for a slow-down in advancement. However, they shouldn't be used as excuses, for as it's been said, excuses are the nails used to build a house of failure.

I've recently read some articles in the press which laud the accomplishments of some recent Eagle Scouts. Some of them were older scouts, 16-17 years old, and others were younger scouts, 13-14 years old. In all of the articles, the thing that really caught my eye was that each young man was extremely active in his personal life. Yet each one of them had the time to manage to become Eagle Scouts. None of them had a lot of free time on their hands. They all participated in high school sports and clubs. They all participated in music groups or drama clubs and they were all active in their church and community. Somehow, through all that, they found the time to reach Scouting's pinnacle – Eagle Scout. Actually, they didn't find the time, they made the time!

Each and every young man in this Troop can make the time, as well. All you need to do is set Eagle as your goal and make a plan of action. You have many people in the Troop who can, and will, help you along the way – the Assistant Scoutmasters, your parents, your friends in your patrol, and of course, me. I guarantee that if you make the time and follow your plan, you'll reach your goal of Eagle Scout. Then hopefully, I'll be reading news articles about each of you one day!

Yours in Scouting,
Jerry Manning
Scoutmaster

(IGLOO from Pg. 1) The Scorpions set up in one cabin while Mr. Pecoraro, Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Morales set up in another. Mr. Manning, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Loughran set up tents in the snow as did all of the older Scouts.



One of the things you quickly realize is how much longer it takes to set up camp in the cold. Fingers are not as nimble when wrapped with gloves or mitts. And, if you have to take them off for a minute your hands quickly get cold. Add to that the wind blowing ground cloths and tents away at every opportunity and you have the makings for some challenging and entertaining setup.



Always important on a winter trip is the need to keep the inner furnace stoked and that means you must eat! So, after setting up tents and unrolling foam pads and sleeping bags, we ate and we ate some more. Fueled and ready to go, the boys held a brief meeting to discuss the activities for the day. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough snow for sledding so they decided to work on some skills advancement for the afternoon and some general exploration in the surrounding woods.

Some of the Scorpions worked on constructing fire lays, others on nutrition and menu planning requirements for First

An advertisement for a climbing event. The background is a blue sky with white clouds. The text 'ISLAND ROCK' is written in large, bold, blue letters. To the right of the text is a silhouette of a person climbing a rock. Below the text, there is a paragraph of text.

Who wants to climb???
Thursday, February 22nd
we'll meet at Island Rock for a fun night of climbing.

Island Rock Gym is located in Plainview. Approximately 42 top rope stations and walls 30 feet high provide more than 9,600 square feet of climbable terrain and great bouldering.

Class. At one time or another all gathered wood for the evening campfire.

Over in the "hot cabin" Mr. Pecoraro, with help from Mr. Kaufman, was putting together another fine dutch oven meal for the adults. Mr. Morales took on the role of fireman, stoking the woodburning stove. It would only be a slight exaggeration to say that if Mr. Morales had stayed for another week, most of the Allamuchy Scout Reservation would no doubt be experiencing an early spring.

Dinner was prepared by patrol and was followed by a roaring campfire. Sitting and standing around a nice fire is so much more appreciated in the winter. Soon all retreated to cabin or tent for the night with the temperature dropping to about 10 degrees. Now that's winter!



On Sunday morning, after packing and cleaning up, the boys participated in an hour of service to the camp by splitting and stacking wood to replace what was used over the weekend. When finished working, the boys could reflect back on another great trip. Thankfully we had good cold weather and at least a little snow. One of these days we'll have the opportunity to build a real "igloo" and hopefully even sleep in it. Until then...

Next month is our annual Parent-Son campout at Camp Delmont in Pennsylvania. It's another cabin trip and we'll have facilities for both men and women. Hope to see you there!



Coming Events

February

1	Troop Meeting	Court of Honor
4	PLC	12 noon, Mr. Manning's (Super Bowl Sunday!)
8	Troop Meeting	Program: Cooking (Panthers)
11	Troop Activity	Pancake Breakfast & Scout Sunday Service
15	Troop Meeting	Program: Cooking (Panthers)
22	Troop Activity	Climbing at Island Rock
23-25	Camping	Parent-Son Weekend at Delmont Scout Reservation

March

1	Troop Meeting	Program: Cooking (Panthers)
4	PLC	7pm, Mr. Manning's
8	Troop Meeting	Program: Citizenship (Venture)
10	Troop Activity	Scouting For Food, Location TBA
15	Troop Meeting	Program: Citizenship (Venture)
22	Troop Meeting	Program: Citizenship (Venture)
24-25	Camping	Battleship Cove
29	Troop Meeting	Program: Camping/ Wilderness Survival (Panthers)

31	Troop Activity	Spring Church Cleanup
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April

1	PLC	7pm, Mr. Manning's
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Scout Skills – Sleep Warmer

The following advice is provided courtesy of Backpacker.com:

Don't get cold feet at the prospect of winter backpacking. With the right insulation, food, and clothing, even chilly sleepers can snooze soundly through a freezing night. Follow our field-tested advice and set up your sleeping bag as shown below to create a comfortable cocoon that dries your damp clothes with body heat, and ensures all-night warmth.

Size your sack

You don't need a -40°F bag to sleep toasty, but you do need a snug fit; a too-big bag means extra space to heat, which saps your body's energy. Choose a winter bag with just enough tossing-and-turning space, and a temperature rating based on the lowest digits you'll experience, subtracting 10 degrees (15 if you sleep cold).

Have a snack

Eat energy bars before bed to give your body the fuel to stay warm, and keep a Snickers handy in case you wake up chilled before dawn.

Cover your dome

Always sleep in a hat, especially if you don't use your sleeping bag's hood.

Dress for space

It's tempting to wear every layer to bed, but too much clothing can make your bag tight and compress the insulation. Adjust your layers to suit your bag's interior volume.

Put on dry socks

If your feet get cold, wrap them in a jacket or extra insulating clothes.

Sleep with a bottle

Fill a Lexan bottle or two with hot water, stuff them inside a sock or fleece, and place them between your legs (to warm the blood in your femoral artery) and at your feet.

Go long with your pad

Skip the ultralight summer shortie for a full-length mat, and back up any self-inflating pad (1.5 inches thick is optimal) with a closed-cell foam mat or spare clothing underneath it. A pack placed under your legs also provides insulation.

Dry your shoes

Stash wet boots in a waterproof stuff sack or trash bag between your legs to keep them from freezing. Remove insoles and put them in your bag to dry out. If you have double boots, sleep with only the liners.

February Camping - Annual Parent-Son Trip

After several years holding our annual Parent-Son campout at Resica Falls, we're returning to Camp Delmont.

CAMP DELMONT

Camp Delmont is part of the 1,400+ acre Musser Scout Reservation and is located in Marlborough Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The camp is nestled around the serenity of the Unami Creek. We'll have two cabins and facilities for both Moms and Dads.

PATROL CORNERS

◆ Scorpion Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Service Patrol: Mar. 8, Mar 15 & Mar.22

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, our swim night, scheduled for April 5th, at the Nassau County Aquatic Center, is a perfect opportunity to complete the Second and First Class swimming requirements.

One other thing; the Scorpion Patrol has the program for May – Map & Compass. This will be your first time presenting the program. It’s not too early to start thinking about and writing down ideas. Just keep a page of notes in your patrol notebook.

◆ Panther Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Program Patrol: Feb 8, Feb. 15 & Mar. 1
Program Theme: Cooking

Panthers: Even though you are busy with this month’s cooking program, start thinking ahead to the April program (starts March 29). The subject is Camping/ Wilderness Survival, a great topic with many opportunities for learning.

Don’t forget to check our web site for all the latest Troop information:

www.troop323.org



◆ Venture Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Service Patrol: Feb. 8, Feb. 15 & Mar. 1

Program Patrol: Mar. 8, Mar 15 & Mar.22

The program topic for March is Citizenship. **Please have a program plan, covering each of the three meetings, available for discussion at the Feb 4 PLC.** Use the Troop Meeting Planner found on the troop website under the “Important Forms” tab.