



# Troop 323 News

Volume 3, Issue9-10  
May/June 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 - Transportation  
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

## Spring Camping – Clear Lake and RR Camporee

Clear Lake Scout Reservation has become a favorite destination for many in the Troop and especially for a certain Assistant Scoutmaster who is known for his affinity for the hike. In the past we've made good use of the beautiful cabins at Clear Lake scheduling our visits for the winter months. This past year we planned to camp at Clear Lake in the month of April allowing us the opportunity to sample the camp from the doors of our nylon homes. The Troop program leading up to Clear Lake was built on the theme; Camping and Wilderness Survival and so some of the Scouts planned to construct survival shelters and spend the night in them.

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## Scoutmaster's Minute:

Greetings Troop 323!

Well, we're rapidly approaching the end of another Scouting year and I believe it's been a successful one. Everyone should be proud of the job they've done. Here's a list of some of our accomplishments:

- 95% of the Scouts advanced at least one rank during the year and many earned more than one.
- Attendance at Troop meetings and outings has been steadily increasing to the point where about 75% of the Scouts attend Troop meetings and about 60% attend the monthly outings. This is outstanding progress – keep up the good work!
- The Patrols have done an excellent job with their monthly programs and behavior at the Troop meetings has been steadily improving.
- We were one of the top Troops in popcorn sales in the Rough Rider District with over \$5400.00 sold.
- We collected over 800 pounds of food during this year's Scouting For Food drive.

This is just a brief list of what we've accomplished this year. All in all, it was an outstanding job!

I'd like to thank our Assistant Scoutmasters for all their efforts during the year (and a special congratulations to Mr. Loughran for being selected as the recipient of the Troop Spark Plug Award). A debt of gratitude is also in order for our Troop Committee for their dedication to the Troop program. I'd also like to thank the parents for their support during the year and I'd be remiss if I didn't give a shout-out to the Scouts of Troop 323 – thanks for being a great bunch of young men. I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster!

Yours in Scouting,

Jerry Manning

## Clear Lake (Continued from Page 1)

This would also be the first tent campout for the newly formed Shark Patrol since joining the Troop and they were eager to camp as Boy Scouts. We arrived at camp Friday night and selected our Patrol sites by lantern light. We had a large area to set up camp backed by a steep rock wall that was climbed repeatedly over the weekend.

After the typical pancake and sausage breakfast, the patrols split up, the Sharks for a nature hike and a series of skills sessions and the rest for a longer hike into Fahnestock State Park. The day was beautiful and the hike into Fahnestock was spectacular, following the Appalachian trail for a short time. We traversed ridgeline and valley crossing two substantial streams, the second requiring us to toss our boots and socks to the far side and wade through knee-deep, icy cold water. We stopped numerous times to rest and snack, once filtering ice cold stream water to refill our bottles. In all we covered a bit over six miles. Not the ten that we had planned, but a great hike for sure.

The Sharks were off on their own hike observing evidence of animal and plant life and working on identification of such. Their hike, although shorter, involved a bushwhack up a steep hillside dotted with truck-sized boulders and offering numerous crevasses for exploration. Afterward, back at camp, they worked on knots, first aid and other rank advancement.

Dinner was prepared and cooked by patrol and after KP was complete, we prepared for the traditional Saturday night campfire. Impromptu skits were performed and everyone relaxed and told stories of the day's adventure. Several scouts had built lean-to style survival shelters and spent the night under them in the spirit of the program theme.

Sunday morning breakdown and clean up was accomplished quickly, the Troop working like a well oiled machine. There was even time for one last scramble up the wall behind camp. I'll look forward to our next visit to Clear Lake.

## Camporee

The Rough Rider District Camporee was held at Schiff Scout Reservation in Wading River the weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. A small contingent of mostly younger Scouts attended. The theme for Camporee was The Civil War and re-enactors in traditional garb could be seen throughout camp. In a format different from past events, rather than competing against other Patrols and Troops in skills competitions, Scouts rotated through a series of demonstrations related to the program theme. Topics presented included Black Powder Rifle, Semaphore, Period Cooking, Women in the War and others. Saturday night was highlighted by a joint campfire program and Order of the Arrow call-out. Congratulations to Troop 323 OA candidates Tim H., Sean L., Matt R., Zack S., and Mr. Sheehy.

Photos from the Clear Lake trip and Camporee are posted on the Troop website.

## IMPORTANT NEWS - DATE CHANGE!



Due to official U.S.C.G. business, our June trip to the Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station has been rescheduled from the weekend of 6/29-7/1 to the weekend of 7/7-7/8. Please be sure to make the change of your calendars at home.

Sign-up will take place between now and our last troop meeting (6/21). Details are as follows:

- When: Saturday, July 7th to Sunday, July 8th
- Where: Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station
- Cost: \$15.00 per person
- Food: Provided by the Troop
- Depart: Sat., 7/7 at 7:00 AM from the Church parking lot
- Return: Sun., 7/8 at approx. 3:00 PM to the Church parking lot
- Tents: Supplied by Troop for the Scouts - Adults must supply their own

Sign-up today so you don't miss out on the best trip of the year!

## Important Announcements

**Troop Elections** – Troop elections were held at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Troop meeting. Matt R. was elected Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). Matt will now appoint his ASPL(s) and other appointed positions. If you're interested in a particular job in the Troop, let him know. Congratulations Matt!

**Summer Camp** – Total payment is now due (\$50 dep + \$235 balance = \$285 total). Medical forms are due at the July 5<sup>th</sup> mandatory Summer Camp meeting. Contact Mr. Howells if you have questions.

**Shark Patrol Meeting** – June 14, 7:30pm at FPC. In place of our regularly scheduled Troop meeting, the Sharks will meet to work on advancement. Most will be able to complete the Tenderfoot rank requirements by attending this meeting.



## Coming Events

### June

7	Troop Meeting	Program: Court of Honor
10	PLC	June PLC & Annual Planning Conference 3:00 PM @ Mr. Manning's (BBQ dinner will be served)
14	Troop Meeting	Troop Meeting CANCELLED due to Regents/finals week. Meeting moved to 6/21. <b>Shark Patrol will meet!</b>
15	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)
7-8	Troop Camping	Eaton's Neck Coast Guard
22-28	Summer Camp	Onteora Scout Reservation, Livingston Manor, NY

## IMPORTANT NEWS!!

### Troop 323 Annual Fishing Trip



Join us on Sunday, August 26th for a great afternoon of fishing on the Great South Bay aboard the Dixie II.

**This is a rain or shine event and only the captain can cancel the trip. Please plan to arrive at the Captree Boat Basin by no later than 3:30 PM, as the boat will leave the dock at precisely 4:00 PM. We will not wait for anyone and no refunds will be given if you miss the boat.**

The cost is only \$20.00 per person and includes bait, fishing tackle and mate service. Please plan on bringing something to eat & drink and of course, weather-appropriate outerwear.

**As in all BSA activities, alcoholic beverages are prohibited and they will not be allowed on the boat.**

Sign-up will take place between now and our last Troop meeting on Thursday, June 21st. We've got a limit of 75 passengers and space is filling up fast, so don't delay!

## *Scout Skills – Ten Tips for Being a Good Patrol Leader*

- 1. Keep Your Word.** Don't make promises you can't keep.
- 2. Be Fair to All.** A good leader shows no favorites. Don't allow friendships to keep you from being fair to all members of your patrol. Know who likes to do what, and assign duties to patrol members by what they like to do.
- 3. Be a Good Communicator.** You don't need a commanding voice to be a good leader, but you must be willing to step out front with an effective "Let's go." A good leader knows how to get and give information so that everyone understands what's going on.
- 4. Be Flexible.** Everything doesn't always go as planned. Be prepared to shift to "plan B" when "plan A" doesn't work.
- 5. Be Organized.** The time you spend planning will be repaid many times over. At patrol meetings, record who agrees to do each task, and fill out the duty roster before going camping.
- 6. Delegate.** Some leaders assume that the job will not get done unless they do it themselves. Most people like to be challenged with a task. Empower your patrol members to do things they have never tried.
- 7. Set an Example.** The most important thing you can do is lead by example. Whatever you do, your patrol members are likely to do the same. A cheerful attitude can keep everyone's spirits up.
- 8. Be Consistent.** Nothing is more confusing than a leader who is one way one moment and another way a short time later. If your patrol knows what to expect from you, they will more likely respond positively to your leadership.
- 9. Give Praise.** The best way to get credit is to give it away. Often a "Nice job" is all the praise necessary to make a Scout feel he is contributing to the efforts of the patrol.
- 10. Ask for Help.** Don't be embarrassed to ask for help. You have many resources at your disposal. When confronted with a situation you don't know how to handle, ask someone with more experience for some advice and direction.

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

[www.troop323.org](http://www.troop323.org)

# PATROL CORNERS

## ◆ Scorpion Patrol ◆

### Election Results:

**Patrol Leader: Matt H.**

**Asst. Patrol Leader: Steven S.**

**Scribe: TBA**

**Quartermaster: TBA**

Congratulations to the following Shark Patrol members on their recent advancement:

Ryan G. – Second Class & First Class

Edward J. - Tenderfoot

Justin M. – First Class

JJ M. – First Class

Thomas M. – Second Class

Tommy N. – Second Class & First Class

James R. – Second Class & First Class

Steven S. – First Class

Kevin W. – Second Class

## ◆ Panther Patrol ◆

### Election Results:

**Patrol Leader: Brian M.**

**Asst. Patrol Leader: Dan L.**

**Scribe: TBA**

**Quartermaster: TBA**

Congratulations to the following Panther Patrol members on their recent advancement:

Dan L. - Tenderfoot

## ◆ Shark Patrol ◆

### Election Results:

**Patrol Leader: Sean C.**

**Asst. Patrol Leader: Michael G.**

**Scribe: TBA**

**Quartermaster: TBA**

Congratulations to the following Shark Patrol members on their recent advancement:

Nick C. – Scout

Joe F. – Scout

Alex C. – Scout

Sean C. – Scout

Michael G. – Scout

Marc L. – Scout

Sean M. – Scout

Chris R. – Scout

Dylan S. – Scout

Andrew T. - Scout

## ◆ Venture Patrol ◆

### Election Results:

**Patrol Leader: Ian H.**

**Asst. Patrol Leader: Andrew L.**

**Scribe: TBA**

**Quartermaster: TBA**

Congratulations to the following Venture Patrol members on their recent advancement:

Mike C. - Life Scout

Ian H. – Eagle Scout & Bronze Eagle Palm

Sean L. – Life Scout