



# Troop 323 News

Volume 5, Issue 3-4  
November-December 2008

## 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  
Chris Senior – Charter Rep.  
Joe Falco – Treasurer  
Ann Harris – Fundraising  
Bob Howells – Summer Camp  
Mynelle Howells – Secretary  
Tom Huber  
Andy Lazar – Advancement  
Rich Maier - Transportation  
Tom Prykuta - Registration  
Kathy Reilly – Fundraising  
Jo Sepulveda - Hospitality

### Adult Staff

Jerry Manning – Scoutmaster  
Ken Bacotti – ASM  
Jerry Cordeiro - ASM  
Ed Dietze – ASM  
Vinnie Giacalone – ASM  
Dan Harris – ASM  
Andy Kaufman – ASM  
Bill Krick – ASM  
Bob Loughran – ASM  
Phil Pecoraro – ASM  
Matt Rochon – ASM  
John Schmidt – ASM  
Dave Schuster – ASM  
Ed Sepulveda - ASM  
John Sheehy – ASM

### Scout Leadership

Brian M. – SPL  
Tim H. – ASPL  
Sean L. - ASPL



## Scoutmaster's Minute

Greetings,

I came across this poem while surfing the internet recently and I thought it might be nice to share it with you during this holiday season. I hope you all enjoy it...

### The Boy Scout's Mother Asked

by F. Darnall Daley, Jr.

"Where has my little baby gone?"  
The Cub Scout's Mother asked,  
"He went by here awhile ago.  
Did you not see him pass?"

He'd gone to be a Tiger Cub  
And then a Wolf was he.  
He learned to carve the pinewood car,  
And sing the songs with glee.

And after that he was a Bear,  
And then a Webelos Scout.  
He learned the Boy Scout Oath and Law,  
And fun in full amount.

Crossed over to be a Boy Scout,  
And shown what kindness meant.  
His best is what he'd have to be,  
Everywhere he went.

"Where has my baby boy gone?"  
The Boy Scout's Mother asked,  
"He went by here awhile ago.  
Did you not see him pass?"

To hike the trails and pitch a tent,  
To swim the lakes and streams,  
To kindle a fire under the stars,  
These were his every day dreams.

Down the long trail to Eagle,  
He smilingly went his way.  
The many adventures that he had,  
Shaped the man we see today.

Learned to be a citizen,  
A helping hand to lend.  
He learned what cheerful service means,  
And how to be a friend.

"Where has my baby boy gone?"  
The Boy Scout's Mother asked,  
"He went to be a Boy Scout,  
And he grew to be a man."

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to one and all!

*Jerry Manning*  
Scoutmaster



## Camp Conron

Our November campout was held at Camp Conron just west of Pawling NY. We first camped there in November just over a year ago and knew then that we'd be back for sure. Like last year, the campout was planned around a Thanksgiving feast. Moreover, like last year we would cook turkey in a garbage can with each Patrol preparing a side dish or dessert.

Camp Conron is a relatively small camp owned by a Queens Scout troop. Complete with a house providing a full kitchen, sleeping quarters, and plenty of room for seating, the camp also features a small pond, lean-tos for camping, open fields for tenting and games, and plenty of woods for exploring. We were blessed with a beautiful weekend although much colder than typical for late November.

*(continued Pg. 2)*

(Conron cont.) Friday evening was spent unloading and stowing gear, setting up tents and getting ready for a cold night outside. Saturday morning dawned sunny but very cold, with temperatures climbing slowly from the low to mid teens during the night. Everyone found reason to duck into the house from time to time to get warm but for the most part, we remained outside playing soccer, football and baseball. We took time out to run a Troop mobilization drill that we planned as part of the November program theme - Emergency Preparedness. Two scouts went off and became "lost" in the woods. Realizing that some were missing, the SPL summoned the patrol leaders who then mobilized their patrols and set off in an organized search at the direction of the SPL. The missing scouts were found, the results of the exercise discussed, and the games resumed.

During late afternoon, the fire ring was prepared to become part of two large garbage-can ovens that would be used to roast the turkeys. Stakes were pounded into the ground, aluminum foil set down and charcoal set aflame. Soon two turkeys were nestled all snug in their cans while visions of stuffing, mashed potatoes and veggies cooked in our pans. Before long the coal were glowing brightly and crackling sounds could be heard within the cans. Scouts were busy inside either preparing side dishes or setting up our banquet table. We even had three guests join us for dinner. Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Dmuchowski and Mrs. Sepulveda drove up to camp to enjoy the feast with us. Just as it was last year, the food was spectacular and topped off with dessert choices of apple, peach or blueberry cobbler-like dutch oven desserts! Spectacular!

Having had enough of the cold already, most of the younger Scouts took advantage of the warmth of the house and camped out on the floor inside on Saturday night. For sure, this weather was more akin to a January campout than November and those that did endure the two nights outside comfortably should be commended for "being prepared".

As usual, Sunday morning was the time for breaking camp, stowing gear and traveling back home. Another successful campout in the books. The only disappointment: we don't camp in December!



## Scout Skills – Recognizing Hypothermia

Hypothermia is the rapid and progressive mental and physical collapse that accompanies the chilling of the human body's inner core.

It is caused by exposure to cold and is intensified by wetness, wind and exhaustion. It can and does happen in temperatures well above freezing.

The symptoms of hypothermia are progressive. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, slow slurred speech, memory lapses, incoherence, fumbling hands, frequent stumbling, drowsiness, exhaustion and apparent unconcern about physical discomfort.

**Remember this: Is it Hypothermia? Look for the "Umbles"  
— Stumbles, Mumbles, Fumbles, and Grumbles**

**Treat hypothermia by minimizing further cooling and actively re-warming the victim by:**

- Getting the victim out of the wind & rain. Removing wet clothing and replacing with dry clothing if possible.
- Getting the victim near a heat source – inside a sleeping bag skin-to-skin with a healthy person is best.
- Giving conscious victims hot drinks (soup or sugar drinks, NO caffeine or alcohol)

**Avoid hypothermia by:**

- Staying dry. Carry good raingear and put it on before you get wet.
- Make camp or turn back before stormy weather sets in.
- Being aware of the wind. Even a slight breeze carries heat away from the body. Wind intensifies cold by evaporating moisture.

**Keep an eye on your buddy! Help one another by learning to recognize these symptoms and act quickly!**

## ◆ Important Announcements ◆

**OA Elections - Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Troop Elections - Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Troop Court of Honor - Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup>**

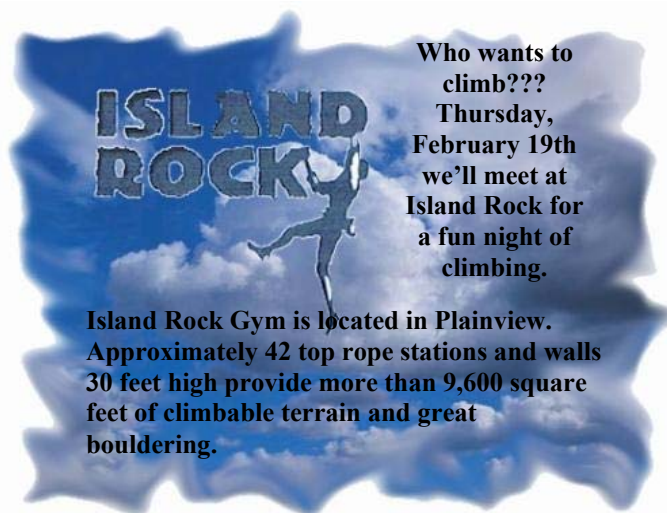
**Troop Ski trip & camping at Resica Falls – March 6-8  
Information coming soon!**

**The Troop will be camping at Battleship Cove the weekend  
of March 21-22**



## Coming Events


Date	Event	Time & Location
12/25	No Troop Mtg. – Merry Christmas!	
<b>Jan 2009</b>		
1/1	No Troop Mtg. – Happy New Year!	
1/4	Jan. Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)	7:30pm @ Mr. Manning's
1/8	Troop Mtg. – Winter Camping (Venture II)	7:30pm @ FPC
1/14	RR District Roundtable (for adult leaders)	7:45pm @ IT HS cafeteria
1/15	Troop Mtg. – Winter Camping (Venture II)	7:30pm @ FPC
1/22	Troop Mtg. – Winter Camping (Venture II)	7:30pm @ FPC
1/24-25	Troop Camping	Onteora SR
1/29	Troop Mtg. – <b>Court of Honor</b>	7:00pm @ FPC
<b>February</b>		
2/1	Scout Sunday & Pancake Breakfast	7:00am @ FPC
2/1	Feb. Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)	12:30pm @ Mr. Manning's
2/5	Troop Mtg. – Indian Lore (Venture I)	7:30pm @ FPC
2/7	Day Trip to USS Intrepid	NYC
2/11	RR District Roundtable (for adult leaders) – <b>SPLs invited!</b>	7:45pm @ IT HS cafeteria
2/12	Troop Mtg. – Indian Lore (Venture I)	7:30pm @ FPC
2/19	No Troop Meeting – Climbing at Island Rock	Meet@ Island Rock (time TBA)
2/26	Troop Mtg. – Indian Lore (Venture I)	7:30pm @ FPC
<b>March</b>		
3/1	Mar. Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)	7:30pm @ Mr. Manning's
3/5	Troop Mtg. – Mechanics/Architecture (Sharks)	7:30pm @ FPC
3/6-8	Troop Feb. Camping (Ski trip)	Resica Falls (Poconos)
3/11	RR District Roundtable (for adult leaders)	7:45pm @ IT HS cafeteria
3/12	Troop Mtg. – Mechanics/Architecture (Sharks)	7:30pm @ FPC
3/14	Scouting for Food	TBA



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

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

**January Campout – “Unofficial Igloo” @  
Onteora Scout Reservation**



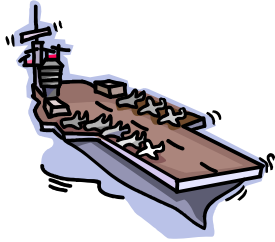
Our annual “Igloo” trip will be held on January 24 and 25 at OSR in the southern Catskills. We'll have the opportunity to practice the winter camping skills learned during the January program.

We have secured cabin facilities for the youngest Scouts and tenting areas for our experienced Scouts so that nobody will be left out. Remember that the program for this trip is typically sledding, so start wishing for snow!

**Signup at the January 8<sup>th</sup> Troop meeting**

**Remember – You must attend the Jan 8 & 15 Troop programs and the mandatory pack inspection on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to be eligible to attend!**

## USS Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum



Join us on February 7<sup>th</sup> for our day trip to the USS Intrepid. We'll take the train to Penn Station and hike across town to Pier 86 to board the Intrepid.

The museum complex is comprised of, the Intrepid, an Essex class aircraft carrier, the Growler, an original Dartar class, nuclear deterrent submarine and Concorde, the fastest commercial airliner ever built.

**Discover** never-before-seen areas of the ship, from the fo'c's'le with its massive anchor chains to the newly opened sleeping quarters to a 1960s recreated mess deck.

**Explore** a variety of hands-on activities in our NEW interactive hall. Guests can "land" a plane in our flight simulator, climb into a lifeboat, pick up objects with astronaut gloves and more.

**Investigate** a "top-secret" submarine. The former USS Growler is the world's only strategic, diesel-powered nuclear deterrent submarine open to the public.

**Behold** authentically restored aircraft. From WWII to the modern day, our awe-inspiring collection comprises 30 aircraft completely restored to their historic glory.

**Climb aboard** aviation history. The luxurious Concorde Alpha-Delta that once catered to a privileged few is now open to Intrepid visitors on brand-new Pier 86.

## High Adventure



### Philmont 2010 Update

We were recently notified that, regrettably, we did not win a lottery spot for a 2010 Philmont Trek. That's not the end of it though! We are on the waiting list and sometime in January, we'll be advised of our position.

If we have a low number, we'll begin trek signups and preparation. If it appears unlikely that we'll get a spot we'll begin exploring alternatives. There are some spectacular opportunities available to us including, but not limited to:

- Backpacking/ mountaineering in the Colorado Rockies
- Sea kayaking off the Georgia coast
- Hiking & sea kayaking in Alaska

The possibilities are endless. Plan on attending a Troop High Adventure meeting in January.

## Patrol Corners

### Venture I News

PL – Bobby M.  
APL – Steven B.

Venture I has the program for the February 5, 12 & 26 troop meetings. The theme is Indian Lore. Check the BSA Program Helps for ideas. A draft copy of the program plan should be ready for the January PLC.

### Venture II News

PL – Jon S.  
APL – Thomas M.

A bunch of Venture II guys have signed up for the TR Council mountain bike high adventure training to be held at Kellenberg H.S. and Bethpage Park. Final chance to sign up on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>. Call Mr. Loughran (455-9246 cell) for information.

### Shark News

PL – Gio A.  
APL – Nick C.

The Sharks have the program for March. The theme is Mechanics & Architecture. Now is a good time to have a patrol meeting to brainstorm ideas.

### Thunderhawk News

PL – Zach S.  
APL – Joe B.

Several Thunderhawks have signed up for Pinetree Training held at Schiff Scout Reservation through the next several months. Instruction is available for many skills including: backpacking, campfires, pioneering, cooking, Indian lore, first aid, archery and others. Talk to Mr. Sepulveda if you are interested.

### Eagle News

PL – Thomas B.  
APL – Franky K.

Pinetree Training is available to all Scouts and is held at Schiff Scout Reservation through the next several months. Instruction is available for many skills including: backpacking, campfires, pioneering, cooking, Indian lore, first aid, archery and others. Talk to Mr. Bacotti if you are interested.