



Troop 323 News

Volume 3, Issue 2
October 2006

Boy Scout Troop 323 First Presbyterian Church, Levittown, NY



"Thrifty -Means a lot more than putting pennies away, and it is the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well as anything."

-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
Maria Poveromo – Transportation
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
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

Harriman Backpacking

Our October trip to Harriman State Park was the high point of a very successful backpacking program put on by the Panther Patrol. The program began in late September with a discussion of foods and cooking methods suitable for backpacking. Unlike most of our campouts, a backpacking trip requires that you carry all of your food and camping gear on your back from the trailhead to your planned camp and back out again. Careful planning would be essential to control the weight we would have to carry. Next, we covered the basics of getting all that food, water and gear into our backpacks so that it would be available when needed and distributed properly to minimize the strain on our shoulders, back and legs. Finally we covered land navigation using a map and compass so we would be assured of not becoming lost in the woods with our limited supply of food and water.

(continued on Pg.2)

Scoutmaster's Minute: October 2006



Well, we're off to a flying start this year. Meeting attendance has been good (especially now that the Mets are out of the playoffs) and the Troop's uniforming has been getting better. It's also nice to see that the Scouts' behavior at Troop meetings is steadily improving. I still would like to see better attendance on our monthly camping trips. Parents, please encourage your sons to camp with us. I'm sure you all could use a break for a weekend! ☺

Our Fall Court of Honor took place on Thursday, October 5th and was a huge success. Seventeen Scouts advanced in rank and 85 merit badges were presented. Many other awards were distributed. Two Scouts earned their Bear Claw beads – a big BULLY to Mike P. and Zach S. for that accomplishment. I'd like to thank everyone who helped with setting up the gym and providing the refreshments. It was an outstanding team effort.

November is upon us and that usually signifies the start of the 2nd-year Webelos recruitment. Please attend all meetings in uniform and be prepared to show our potential new recruits how great 323 can be. Remember, you all were "new guys" at one time. If you know any 2nd-year Webelos, or if you have any friends that might be interested in joining, please let me know and bring them down to a meeting.

Don't forget about our Fall clean-up here at the Church on Saturday, November 4th. We need a large turnout to help clear the Church grounds of leaves and other debris. This is one of the ways we show our thanks to the members of The First Presbyterian Church of Levittown for sponsoring us. It's also another opportunity for you to earn service time for advancement.

That's all for now. Thanks for listening.

Yours in Scouting,

Jerry Manning, Scoutmaster

Backpacking (from Page 1)

Saturday morning we met early enough to catch one or two Orionid meteors streaking across the pre-dawn sky. We loaded packs into cars and set off for the short ride north to Harriman. We arrived at the trailhead early, hoisted packs and set off with map and compass in hand. Soon we arrived at the junction of the Arden Surebridge (A-S) and Appalachian (AT) trails. Our plan was for the group to split here and take two different routes to our destination at Bald Rocks. The Venture and Panther patrols set off up a steep 600 foot ascent of Green Pond Mountain while the Scorpions remained on the A-S climbing more gradually to the shoulder of the same mountain. At one point, the A-S climbs steeply as the trail switches direction back and forth along the nearly vertical face of the mountain. The Scorpions climbed impressively to a well deserved rest spot on top. The remainder of the hike to Bald Rocks crossed a variety of terrain including several streams swollen from the recent rain and the remnants of the Boston Mine, a water-filled cavern from which iron ore was mined long ago. The Venture/Panther group passed by and took time to explore the Lemon Squeezer, a unique rock formation through which the AT passes on the way to it's northern terminus in Maine.



Bald Rocks is a unique and picturesque campsite. The name appropriately reflects the landscape; a series of undulating rock, brushed smooth by glaciers with sparse vegetation occupying the deep fissures that are able to hold soil. With few trees to hold trail markers, blazes are painted directly on the rock, or cairns (small piles of rock) are used to mark the trail. Off the sides of the ridge, grasses give way to underbrush and then trees provide some minimal protection from the wind that seems to constantly buffet the ridge. A rare campsite where it's possible to watch both the sunset and the next morning's sunrise from the same spot!

We set up tents on a flat, grassy area north of the lean-to shelter and started to prepare a quick and simple lunch. The Venture and Panther patrols arrived soon thereafter and set up their tents as well. After lunch, we set off on a three mile circular hike that took us across the glacially sculpted landscapes of Hogencamp Mountain to Times Square, a large boulder marking the confluence of several major Harriman

trails. After a brief rest we continued on the Long Path stopping by another rain swollen stream to filter water for our canteens. We rested again at the top of a small waterfall flanked on two sides by tall rock walls yearning to be climbed and explored. But the day was growing long and we still had ground to cover so we explored briefly and onward we went, passing by the Hogencamp Mine and climbing gradually to "Bowling Rocks". Bowling Rocks is an open expanse of flat rock littered with boulders. Like so much of the Harriman high country the rock was scrubbed flat by glaciers with boulders ranging in size from bowling ball to small car dropped haphazardly by the receding ice. By this time the sun was beginning to drop from the sky and we covered the remaining distance to camp quickly anxious to cook dinner in daylight. Luckily, the wind had died down over the course of the day and we enjoyed a relaxed dinner cooked over our lightweight backpacking stoves. Even with the wind gone, it was still a bit cool, so we retired early to our nylon homes and warm sleeping bags for the night.

Morning arrived early for the few who were willing to rise at 5:30 to attempt to catch a glimpse of the Orionid meteors. Conditions were good with a new moon providing a dark sky and the lights of the city some 40 miles south of us. By one count, a dozen meteors could be seen before the rising sun ended the show. Slowly everyone emerged for tents, boiled water for tea and oatmeal and packed up gear for the walk out. By about 9:30 we were in a single file, packs on our backs climbing the ridge one last time and over the other side to the Dunning Trail and our route back to Elk Pen. We were amazed as we descended the face of Green Pond Mountain; had we really climbed this with full packs just yesterday? Indeed we had; the boys did a fantastic job and should be proud! Before long we were back at Elk Pen with another great trip coming to an end.

-RTL



November Camping

Schiff Scout Reservation, 11/10 - 11/12

"Pine Tree Training"

Last chance to sign up - 11/2/06



Coming Events

October

26 Troop Meeting Program: Knots & Pioneering - Venture

November

2 Troop Meeting Program: Knots & Pioneering – Venture Menus & duty rosters due for Schiff trip

4 Troop Activity Fall Church Cleanup

5 PLC 7pm, Mr. Manning's

9 Troop Meeting Program: Knots & Pioneering – Venture Schiff backpack inspection

10-12 Troop Camping Schiff Scout Reservation (Pine Tree), Wading River, NY

16 Troop Meeting Program: Knots & Pioneering – Venture

17 Troop Activity Pack 600 Space Derby – Boy Scout volunteers needed to help. See Mr. Schmidt to sign up (*service opportunity*)

23 No Meeting Thanksgiving

30 Troop Meeting Program: Nature – Panther

December

3 PLC 4pm, Mr. Manning's

7 Troop Meeting Program: Nature – Panther

14 Troop Meeting Program: Nature – Panther

16 Troop Activity Day Trip to Atlantis Marine World, Riverhead, NY

21 Troop Meeting Program: Holiday Party

28 No Troop Meeting Holiday break

Fall Church Clean-up

Mark your calendars. Our semi-annual Church clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th. The fun begins at 9:00 am but you can join us at any time during the morning. This is a great opportunity to provide service to our sponsoring organization as well as the community. Bring a rake or shovel, a pair of work gloves and wear your work clothes. Add to your service hours!



September Camping – Baiting Hollow

On Friday, September 22nd, sixteen Scouts and eight adults arrived at Baiting Hollow Scout Camp in Calverton, NY for the first camping trip of the new Scouting year. The theme for the weekend was emergency preparedness. The troop junior leaders formulated a troop mobilization plan and conducted a lost scout drill during the afternoon on Saturday. Nine members of the Scorpion Patrol worked diligently on their rank advancement and by the end of the weekend, all were ready for their Tenderfoot Board of Reviews. An inter-patrol cooking contest took place during Saturday night's dinner. The Panther Patrol won the contest for their rendition of Chicken Teriyaki Stir-fry. Your faithful Scoutmaster was more than happy to be the judge. The winners were rewarded with a special treat from Rocking Chair Patrol Grubmaster, Mr. Phil Pecoraro – a freshly-made pineapple-upside down cake. There was plenty to go around and the Panthers were more that happy to share their good fortune with others in the Troop.

No Troop 323 camping trip would be complete without a hike and at Baiting Hollow; the best hike is always the one that leads down to the beach. So off to the beach we went. A good time was had by all.



Although the weather could have been a little better, it was still a good trip and a nice way to kick-off the year. It should be noted that Troop Guide Mike C. deserves a big thank-you for stepping up to the plate on short notice and serving as acting Senior Patrol Leader for the weekend. He did an outstanding job. BULLY to you, Mike!
-JPM

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

www.troop323.org

PATROL CORNERS

◆ Scorpion Patrol ◆

Congratulations to all that made Tenderfoot at the October Court of Honor. Going on campouts can make advancement happen quickly! Remember that in addition to our weekly Troop meetings, another way to advance is by having regular Patrol meetings. Talk to your Troop Guide for any help you might need. **Remember, our goal is: First Class in our first year!**

Upcoming:

Service Patrol: Nov. 30, Dec 7, 14

Service Patrol Responsibilities:

- Arrive early to setup
- Conduct Flag Ceremony
- Breakdown and cleanup after meeting

◆ Panther Patrol ◆

Upcoming:

Service Patrol: Nov. 2, 9, 16

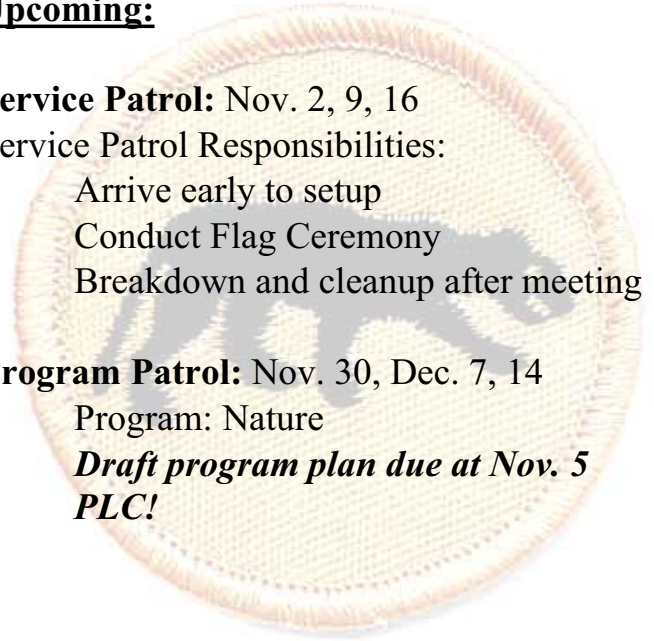
Service Patrol Responsibilities:

- Arrive early to setup
- Conduct Flag Ceremony
- Breakdown and cleanup after meeting

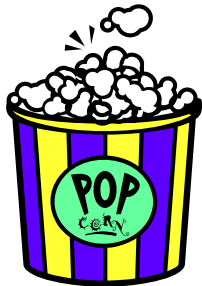
Program Patrol: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14

Program: Nature

***Draft program plan due at Nov. 5
PLC!***



Committee Corner



Attention Troop! We are about to wrap up our popcorn fundraiser. All popcorn orders are to be turned in to Mrs. Reilly on Thursday Nov. 2.

Please remember, your fundraising commitment to the troop is \$70. This can be met with \$200 in popcorn sales.

Individual sales as well as your participation credit for show & sell sales will be counted toward your \$200 commitment. The totals from show & sell will be made available soon. Look for an update in the next newsletter.

In addition to raising money for the Troop, you can earn AWESOME prizes based on the amount of popcorn you sell. See the prize brochure in the popcorn order kits provided.

The profit we make goes to our Troop's program, awards, trips and equipment. **Please remember to thank Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Herrmann and Mrs. Sheehy for their help with this important fundraiser!**

◆ Venture Patrol ◆

Harriman Report: The Venture patrol, consisting of Sean L. and Steven B. had a good time on the trip. We, along with the Panthers, took a more advanced trail than the others. We took about a half hour out of the hike to explore the Lemon Squeezer. It was fun. We climbed all the way to the top and looked back down. It was really cool to be up so high. We should do this trip again next year. –Sean L.

Upcoming:

Program Patrol: Nov 2, 9, 16

Program: Knots & Pioneering