



Troop 323 News

Volume 4, Issue 1
October 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
Thomas Prykuta
Kathy Reilly - Fundraising

Adult Staff

Jerry Manning – Scoutmaster
Ken Bacotti – ASM
Jerry Cordeiro - ASM
Ed Dietze – ASM
Vinnie Giacalone – ASM
Dan Harris - 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

Matt R. – SPL
Mike C. - ASPL

Catching Up...

Wow, it's been a little while since a newsletter has gone out. I guess I've been pretty caught up in the camping and fishing side of things... in other words, spending too much time outdoors rather than in front of the computer... Wait a minute, that doesn't quite sound right. I think that's the way it's supposed to be... Anyway, it's about time we publish another newsletter so here comes a summary of what's been going on since the last issue. I'll try to keep it short so I can get back outside.

Harriman Backpack

Most recently, the Troop backpacked in Harriman Park. It's hard to believe that Harriman is so close to one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country.

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Scoutmaster's Minute

Well, we're off to an outstanding start this year. Meeting attendance has been good 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! ☺

Speaking of camping, our first trip of the new Scouting year took place on the weekend of September 28th-30th at Baiting Hollow Scout Camp in eastern Long Island. The weather was beautiful and a great deal of advancement was accomplished by many of the newer Scouts who attended. Don't forget, the easiest way to advance is to come camping with the Troop. Our next scheduled troop outing is our annual backpacking expedition to Harriman State Park in Rockland County. It was a great experience and you can read about later in this newsletter.

Believe it or not, November is rapidly approaching 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 Troop 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 3rd. 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 about all for now. Keep up the good work!

Yours in Scouting,

Jerry Manning
Scoutmaster

Catching Up... (Continued from Page 1)

Beautiful woodland and rugged high ridges give you the feeling that you must be miles from civilization. But, the evidence was there, right in front of us, to be seen with our own eyes. Camped high on the spine of West Mountain, the view south is magnificent with the Hudson River flowing south and in the distance, the New York City skyline.

It had been no easy task getting to this spot. From the start of our hike at the Anthony Wayne Recreation area, we climbed, with full backpacks, to the ridge north of West Mountain. From here it was about a mile and a half of twisting turning trail climbing up over rock outcroppings and passing view after view of the valleys to our East and West. Red-tailed hawks and turkey vultures circled overhead and, at times, even below us. From time to time we could look back and gauge our progress from the parking area and the Palisades Parkway far below. We took many breaks enjoying the views and snacking and drinking to maintain our strength. The older scouts helped the younger guys over the tough spots and gradually we made our way to our intended camp near the West Mountain Shelter. Once at the shelter, we dropped our heavy loads, and scouted areas to set up our tents.

After setting up camp we set off to replenish our water supply hiking back toward a swamp shown on our trail maps and using water filters to purify the water we would use for cooking and drinking. At over eight pounds per gallon, water is one of the heavier items in our packs, limiting how much we can bring with us and necessitating re-supply along the way. An afternoon hike with only our small daypacks was a nice contrast to the morning hike. We hiked further along the blue-blazed Timp-Torne Trail losing our hard-fought elevation and descending into the deep gorge between West Mountain and The Timp, another peak to the southwest. After climbing back up to our camp we prepared dinner in the fading daylight and watched as the lights of the Hudson valley and NYC lit up below.

Another notable difference between a backpack and our "normal" campout is the gear available to us. Since we must carry everything on our backs, there are certain luxury items missing such as propane lanterns to illuminate the site. The result is usually an early night. So after relaxing and talking for a little while, all retired to tents for much needed sleep.

The hike in had been a long one and so we arose at 6am, long before the sun peeked over the eastern horizon, and began to break camp. After a quick breakfast we were off again, fully loaded, for the hike out. A steep descent of about 600 feet on the Appalachian Trail put us on a nice level woods road for the rest of the hike out. The Sharks that attended; Alex C., Sean M. and Andrew T. should be commended for completing their first of hopefully many backpacking treks! They did a super job on a very difficult trail – BULLY!

Adirondack Adventure

Some of the Troop's older Scouts participated in a Venture Patrol/ Philmont Crew outing to the Adirondack High Peaks in early October. Taking advantage of the long Columbus Day weekend, we headed north on Saturday to Paradox Lake campground, located about 30 minutes beyond Lake George. A beautiful campground on a large lake, Paradox was to be our base for a hike in the High Peaks region. We occupied two campsites, one for the boys and one for the adults. We fished the lake and enjoyed a relaxed dinner of London Broil, baked potatoes and carrots followed by a warm campfire.

Early Sunday morning we drove another hour north to the Upper Works trailhead, the southern access point to the high peaks area. We hiked a tough 5.5 miles on the Calamity Brook trail to Lake Colden, a wilderness lake surrounded by steep mountains. Our goal was the summit of Mount Colden, rising straight up out of the lake, elevation 4714 ft, eleventh highest in the state. The hike in had been quite challenging with lots of mud and standing water from the previous days rains and we started our climb later than expected. We made good progress up the steep side of Colden but soon realized that we were quickly approaching our agreed-to turn-around time. Reluctantly we had to abort our summit attempt in order to arrive back at the trailhead before dark. We began the descent and covered the miles back to the trailhead, resting and refilling water bottles when necessary, arriving at 6pm weary but happy to be out in the peak of the Adirondack fall foliage. We had covered 14 miles in distance and some 2500 ft of elevation gain. A post-hike review was held over a spaghetti and meatball dinner and all agreed that we will go back and get to the summit of Colden. Next time we'll start earlier in the day and perhaps take advantage of the longer days of summer.

Baiting Hollow

Our first campout of the season was held in September at Baiting Hollow Scout Reservation. With mostly younger Scouts in attendance we focused on skills. After a brief review of map & compass, the Sharks completed their 5 mile hike requirement with a hike on the beach. Also taught by the older boys were sessions on fire building, first aid and knots. Many requirements were signed off. Remember guys, the easy way to advancement is to go camping!

Photos of all the outings can be found on the Troop website.

Important Announcements

PHILMONT CREW MANDATORY MEETING



Attention to **ALL** members of the Philmont Crew:

There will be a mandatory crew meeting on Saturday, November 3rd at Mr. Loughran's house at 4:00 PM.



Coming Events

Date	Event	Time & Location
25-Oct	Troop Meeting	7:30 PM @ FPC Gym
1-Nov	Troop Meeting Nov. Camping Signup	7:30 PM @ FPC Gym
3-Nov	Fall Service Project - Church Clean-up	8:00 AM @ FPC
3-Nov	Philmont Crew Meeting	4:00 PM @ Mr. Loughran's
4-Nov	Nov. PLC meeting	7:00 PM @ Mr. Manning's
8-Nov	Troop Meeting Menus & Duty Rosters	7:30 PM @ FPC Gym
14-Nov	Rough Rider District Roundtable	7:45 PM @ IT HS
15-Nov	Troop Meeting Pack Inspection	7:30 PM @ FPC Gym
16-18 Nov	Nov. Camping @ Camp Conron	Meet in FPC lot @ 6:00 PM
29-Nov	Troop Meeting	7:30 PM @ FPC Gym
2-Dec	Council Winter Camping Training	Location TBA
2-Dec	Dec. PLC meeting	7:00 PM @ Mr. Manning's
6-Dec	Troop Meeting	7:30 PM @ FPC Gym
8-Dec	Dec. Day Trip to C & B Archery (Hicksville)	Details TBA



Church Clean-up

It's that time of year again - the air is getting cool & crisp, the leaves are changing and falling off the trees. Which means that it's time for our annual Fall church clean-up.

Please join us on Saturday, November 3rd from 8:00 AM to approximately 12:00 Noon, as we clean the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church of Levittown. It's one of the ways we're able to show our appreciation for all that the Church and its congregation does for us. It's also an opportunity for Scouts to earn valuable service time for their advancements.

You're going to get dirty, so dress appropriately and wear your Class B shirt. It's also a good idea to bring a pair of work gloves and a rake or shovel. Refreshments will be provided.

Thanks in advance for your efforts!

Scout Skills – Dutch Oven Cooking

Our November campout at Camp Conron is sure to be well attended. The plan is in place for a Thanksgiving feast! The main course, well naturally it's Turkey, but cooked in a garbage can! Each patrol will prepare a side dish or dessert. Hmm, could an Apple Cobbler be on the menu?

Apple Cobbler Deluxe

Filling

8 cups Granny Smith apples; thinly sliced
1 cup dried currants or raisins
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/4 cup coarsley chopped pecans; divided

Topping

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs; well beaten
1 cup evaporated milk
1/2 cup butter; melted

Prepare Filling: Place apples in a buttered 12" Dutch oven. Sprinkle raisins over the apples. In a separate bowl combine sugar, cinnamon, and 1 cup of the pecans; stir to mix. Sprinkle over top of apples.

Prepare Topping: In a large bowl sift together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In a separate bowl mix together eggs, evaporated milk and melted butter. Add liquid ingredients to dry all at once and mix until smooth. Pour batter over apples then sprinkle with remaining pecans.

Cover and bake for 45 to 60 minutes using 8-10 briquettes bottom and 14-16 briquettes top until topping is golden brown.

Serve with vanilla ice cream.

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

www.troop323.org

PATROL CORNERS

◆ Scorpion Patrol ◆

Patrol Leader: Matt H.
Asst. Patrol Leader: Steven S.
Scribe: TBA
Quartermaster: TBA

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

Matt H. – Second Class & First Class
Thomas M. – First Class
Kevin W. – First Class

Upcoming:

Service Patrol – Nov. 1, 8, 15 & 29
Program Patrol (First Aid) – Jan 3, 10 & 24

◆ Panther Patrol ◆

Patrol Leader: Brian M.
Asst. Patrol Leader: Dan L.
Scribe: TBA
Quartermaster: TBA

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

Brian M. – Life Scout
Jon S. – Star Scout

Upcoming:

Program Patrol (Cooking) - Nov. 1, 8, 15 & 29
Service Patrol – Dec 6 & 13

◆ Shark Patrol ◆

Patrol Leader: Sean C.
Asst. Patrol Leader: Michael G.
Scribe: TBA
Quartermaster: TBA

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

Matt B. – Scout
Alex C. – Tenderfoot
Nick C. – Tenderfoot
Joe F. – Tenderfoot
Michael G. – Tenderfoot
Marc L. – Tenderfoot
Sean M. – Tenderfoot
Andrew T. – Tenderfoot

Upcoming:

Service Patrol – Jan 3, 10 & 24

◆ Venture Patrol ◆

Patrol Leader: Ian H.
Asst. Patrol Leader: Andrew L.
Scribe: TBA
Quartermaster: TBA

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

Brian H. - Scout
Ian H. – Gold Eagle Palm
Sean L. – NYLT “Bear Claw” Beads
Bobby M. – Star Scout

Upcoming:

Program Patrol (Shooting Sports) - Dec. 6 & 13

