



Troop 615 News



Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2014

Scout Master Minute

Welcome to all of the new Scouts and Scout families! The transition from Cubs to Boy Scouts is a major change and major adjustment. However, the boys are doing well and seem to be working well together. We have the June outing coming up shortly. This outing will take place at Gettysburg on the historic battlefield. This is a really special outing! Access to the camp site is restricted. Troops are required to submit a request that gets entered into a lottery to attend and stay on site at Gettysburg. Thanks to Mr. Maloney for making this outing happen!

Scoutmaster Emeritus Tommy DeWeese will be serving as docent for the day. Tommy is a major civil war buff and he's been through formal training on the leadership lessons from this battle. The outing promises to be a hoot! Also, this will be the last outing prior to summer camp. If you or your Scout has not had a chance to camp with the Troop, please do what you can to get to this outing. If you have not already signed up, please do so ASAP. Space at the camp site is limited.

It's just May, but we're already well on our way towards summer camp 2014! For all Scouts that are beyond first year, please be sure to choose your merit badges, coordinate your schedule, and go over your pre-reqs with Mr. Gattis or Mr. Luther. For first year Scouts and their families, you do not need to worry about pre-reqs. First year Scouts are automatically enrolled in a specific program (called Dan Beard) that is designed to help knock out several requirements that are necessary to advance. Expect that your Scouts will come back from camp not only totally pumped about Scouting, but also with 2 - 3 complete merit badges.

YIS,

Dr. Anderson

Troopmaster Web Demo

Please join us at the **Committee Meeting on Wednesday, 6/4** for a demonstration on the new Troopmaster Web Application. This new application will tie into our existing Troopmaster (the database we use to keep track of everything!) and allow access from the web. Parents and scouts will be able to view their own records and keep track of attendance, merit badges, rank advancement, etc.

The troop will be purchasing this new software once everyone gives their thumbs up in approval.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLC (PATROL LEADERS CONFERENCE) MEETINGS
ALL PATROL AND ASSISTANT PATROL LEADERS NEED TO ATTEND
6/4, 7/9, 8/13 6:00 PM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
ALL ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND 6/4 (TROOPMASTER WEB DEMO), 7/9, 8/13 7:00 PM

OCKANICKON SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION DEADLINE – 5/28/14
(SEE ATTACHED FORM)

GETTYSBURG, PA OUTING - 6/6-6/8

COURT OF HONOR – 6/11

SUMMER CAMP – CAMP OCKANICKON
7/20-7/26

PATUXENT NAVAL BASE OUTING –
8/15-8/17

ELECTIONS – ASPL AND PATROL
LEADERS – 9/3

COURT OF HONOR – 9/13

SERVICE PROJECT – HEALTH FAIR –
9/13-9/14

MAIZE QUEST OUTING – NEW PARK,
PA – 9/19-9/21

SEMI-ANNUAL PLANNING
CONFERENCE – SPC – 9/28 - TIME TBD
(THIS IS WHERE THE SCOUTS PLAN WHERE
THEY WANT TO GO!)

WEBELOS-O-REE – CAMP SAFFRAN -
10/17-10/19

The 3rd Annual Bull Pork Roast was a HUGE Success!



Thank you to all the volunteers that worked so hard to make this event so successful! I would like to give special thanks to the following volunteers that really gave their all for the event...

Dr. Marcelino Albuerne – We lovingly joke that this event should be renamed the Dr. Albuerne Bull Pork Roast! Dr. Albuerne puts his heart and soul into this event every year. He is not only the head chef responsible for all the shopping, prep, and cooking, but he is instrumental in filling ½ the seats at the event as well as soliciting sponsorships and silent auction donations. Thank you Dr. Albuerne!!

Mr. Yung Cho – Mr. Cho is the man behind the scenes (jedi style) that keeps everything running flawlessly. He was a master at handling the ticket sales this year. As a result, our ticket entry process was streamlined and super quick for our guests. Mr. Cho also acted as the treasurer for Friends of Troop 615 and handled the purchasing of all the food and supplies and kept the books balanced. To top it off Mr. Cho donated his time share week in the Cayman Islands to the silent auction. Thank you for your very generous donation Mr. Cho!

Mrs. Susan Hill – Mrs. Hill was amazing once again leading the silent auction! The silent auction was larger and more successful this year than ever. Mrs. Hill spent many, many hours pounding the pavement in Ellicott City asking businesses to donate items for the silent auction. They just can't say no to her! She was battling pneumonia during this endeavor too. We really appreciate you Mrs. Hill!

Mrs. Sheri Stevens – Mrs. Stevens handled the Bull Pork Roast program and sponsorships this year and did a fantastic job! This year's program had some great additions including Mother's Day ads and pictures of our scouts. Our sponsorships greatly increased this year and a special shout out to **Tim and Sheri Stevens** for being **Eagle Sponsors** for our event. Thank you!!!

Mr. Dan Duesterhaus – Mr. Duesterhaus was our project manager for the Bull Pork Roast event. He did an awesome job coordinating all the moving parts of this event and working with all of our community partners (Church of the Resurrection, Catholic Daughters, Knights, etc). Dan you did a terrific job keeping all of us organized and on track to put on such a great event. Thank you!!

Mr. David Smith – Mr. Smith and the rest of the 3 AM pit crew put in some serious work to cook the pig and all the delicious barbeque we enjoyed at the Bull Pork Roast. Thank you for all your hard work. Truly without your help this event would have not been possible.

Mr. Brady Schafer – Mr. Schafer was in charge of the music for the event and did an awesome job coordinating so many wonderful acts. The grand entrance for the pig was awesome! The audience absolutely loved it! Mr. Schafer kept us jamming even during clean up. Thank you Mr. Schafer!

Thank you to all of those that handled ticket sales, gym set up and break down, decorations, cooking and food prep, dishes, food service, ticket lines, carry out, manned the beverage station, handled trash and recycling, took pictures, worked the silent auction, wine wall, gaming wheels or 50/50 raffle and so much more.....THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!



Silent Auction



The Pit Crew



Yummy Food



Great Music



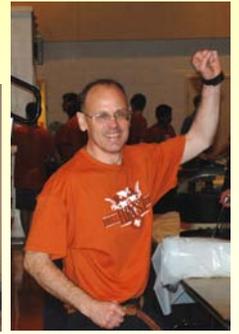
Full House



The Pig's Big Entrance



Marce & Tommy



Happy Dance!



The Eagle's Nest

Alexander Bisant's Picnic Tables for Patapsco Eagle Project is Complete!

A dedicated crew working for 15 hours helped me produce over 1000 of the "world's best" (or so we were told) pierogis for my Eagle project fundraiser. The money from the pierogis sales was used to purchase the materials needed to construct five pristine new picnic tables for the Patapsco State Park. These tables, each weighing over 400 lbs and twelve feet in length, will be set up around the park as needed for park-goers to enjoy.

Thank you all who helped complete my Eagle project!



Adam Albuerne Works to Save the Bay and Completes his Eagle Project!

My project was an environmental preservation project which worked in 2 ways at preventing erosion and protecting the nearby water supply. The first neck of the project was to finish building the retaining wall around the church sign. This was so necessary for a few reasons, the first being that parishioners used the sidewalk which went around the sign, but unfortunately after any rainfall, mud would fall from the mound which the sign is on and it would make dangerous conditions for the parishioners. Additionally, this aids in preventing the mud from running off into the stream. The second part was the bioswale, which is a large 58 ft long by 3 ft wide ditch which is layered. The layers are for filtration and are sand, gravel, topsoil, and then fibrous rooted wetland plants. The goal of the swale is to catch the rainwater from the parking lot and act as a natural filter, filtering out oils, toxins, salts, and other harmful chemicals. To ensure that all water stays in the swale, there exists a backing mound which is seeded with different kinds of native and wetland grasses to ensure strength. The goal of the entire project is to be one step in the rehabilitation of the Bay.



John Matthew Gives Back to his Church and Completes his Eagle Project!

I built a raised garden bed around my church sign at St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church of Baltimore. I also planted two new trees, to replace the two that were cut down. I would like to thank everyone who took time to help me complete my Eagle Project. It was a tremendous success, and Father Phillip would like to thank each and every one of you for the great work we did! I have attached the before and after pictures for everyone to see.

Once again, thank you so much for helping me! Looking forward to returning the favor!
John Matthew



High Adventure – April Outing



On Friday, April 25, 2014, the Philmont Crew assembled at the Church of the Resurrection to divide up gear and food prior to our planned departure to hike on the Appalachian Trail. As we were dividing up gear, it began to rain. As every scout knows, it almost always rains when we go camping. This was not a set-back since a scout is prepared. To save some time, we decided to have a trail meal on Friday night rather than stopping at a fast food restaurant.

We then drove to Pen Mar, MD and left two vehicles. Mrs. Cuddington and Mr. Smith graciously volunteered to accompany us on Friday evening to shuttle us to the drop off point north of Pen Mar. A huge THANK YOU to Mrs. Cuddington and Mr. Smith for this assistance.

We originally planned to get dropped off at Rocky Mountain Shelter; however, we changed our plans based on the time we arrived. Also, Rock Mountain Shelter does not have parking and we would have been trying to unload the vehicles while parked in the road. So, we decided to start at Tumbling Run Shelter, which is only a short hike from the road.

I have to say that the camp site at Tumbling Run Shelter is one of the nicest I have ever seen. It was apparent that volunteers had spent a great deal of time cleaning the site, installing tent pads and generally making it a very comfortable camp site. By the way, the Appalachian Trail is maintained completely by volunteers.

While we were traveling, it stopped raining. Upon our arrival at the camp site, the Crew quickly set up the bear bags, tarp and tents. Prior to our trail meal Jacob Riina led us in saying The Philmont Grace.

For Food
For Raiment
For Life
For Opportunity
For Friendship and Fellowship
We Thank Thee O Lord

Shortly thereafter, the rain started again, but by that time we were comfortable in our tents.

By the next morning, the rain had stopped. The Crew got an early start. We were up at 6 AM and on the trail shortly after 7 AM. The Crew initially hike north on a blue blaze side trail that rejoined the Appalachian Trail near Chimney Rocks. We actually had breakfast while sitting on Chimney Rocks. The view was pretty amazing.

We then started hiking south and actually made it to Deer Lick Run Shelters by 11:18 AM. We had hiked approximately 9 miles. We originally planned to camp for the night at Deer Lick Run, but decided it was too early to stop for the day. The only problem was that there was not another camp site within easy hiking distance, and none near Pen Mar, MD. Nevertheless, the Crew decided to press on to Pen Mar and then find another camp site.

Several miles further south, the Crew had lunch among some boulders atop Mount Dunlop. At this point, the bugs were pretty fierce. It was a running joke that the bugs would go to the highest point on your body. So, if you held your hand over your head, the bugs would not be in your face. It does not work, but it was pretty funny with us walking around with our hands over our head. (Note to self – consider a bug net to go over the hat.)

After lunch, the Crew pressed south and crossed the Mason-Dixon Line from Pennsylvania to Maryland. Not too long afterwards, the Crew arrived in Pen Mar, where we retrieved the vehicles.

The Crew then decided to drive to Gathland State Park and camp at Crampton Gap Shelter. Upon our arrival at Crampton Gap Shelter, the Crew discovered that another Troop and a few backpackers were occupying most of the site. However, the Crew was able to secure some space, set up the bear bag, tarps and tents. We prepared a fantastic trail meal, and even had a campfire.

Early Sunday morning, the Crew packed up the gear and hiked off the trail. It was a good shake down. We had 5 scouts and 2 adults on this outing and hiked approximately 15 miles. For the most part, it went well. The Crew is starting to gel as a group and to become comfortable with their gear. We have one more shake down before we head off to Philmont. We will be ready.

David Gattis
Crew 709-R-05, Advisor

Philmont Crew Outing Pictures – 4/25 - 4/27



Easter Vigil Bonfire

The Easter Vigil Bonfire, a service project, took place on April 19, 2014 from 4:30PM to 10:00PM at the Church of the Resurrection. The fire was lit about 5:00PM and the scouts had pizza at 7:00PM. The church service started at 8:00PM and the parishioners lit their candles from the bonfire and we ended the fire at about 10:00PM. Approximately 13 scouts attended. – Leo Schafer, Troop 615 Historian



COPE Outing at Genesee Valley - 4/25/14 - 4/27/14

The COPE outing was a blast! Wet Friday night during set up. Fabulous weather Sat and Sun. Sat night, got windy and chilly (frost on the ground Sun am). Program was excellent. Low COPE in the morning with team building skills. High COPE in the afternoon with more climbing activities. The younger group climbed an "A" frame...a rope ladder with PVC pipes set up as steps at various, unevenly spaced intervals. The goal was to climb up one side of the rope ladder, then transition across the top of the "A", then climb down the other side. Top of the "A" was probably 25 feet high, so the boys were up there. All the while, they were being belayed (attached to rope and being supported the entire time).

We had a 3:15 am visit from a Cujo-sized Rottweiler. Ryan Jiang was heading to the bathroom with his buddy, Enric, when they saw the dog. They both ran and started screaming. The dog started chasing them. No one got bitten, just totally freaked out the boys.

We found out later that the dog's name was Booger. Hearing the dog's name and talking about it Sunday morning in daylight provided some slightly different perspective for Ryan. Per his mom, he's now joking about the experience.



High Adventure – May Outing



On May 16, 2014, the Philmont Crew assembled on Friday evening for our last shakedown. Originally, the Crew planned to camp at a hostel near Harpers Ferry, WV, and then hike South to our campsite at the David Lesser Shelter. On Sunday, we were going to hike the remaining 3.5 miles to the Blackburn Trail Center. However, on Friday night we learned that the pedestrian bridge over the Potomac and Shenandoah Street in Harpers Ferry were flooded. We did not have any safe way to hike South from our location. So, being Scouts, we quickly came up with Plan B. We drove to the Blackburn Trail Center, and hiked North, doubling back to our campsite, after we had obtained the necessary trail miles.

Trail conditions were a bit wet. There was actually water running down the middle of the trail at many locations, and the trail was submerged at several locations. However, this was the first time hiking on the Appalachian Trail that the trees fully had leaves. The forest looks very different with its new growth. The forest is beautiful. The views, however, were still amazing. Overall, the weather was fantastic for hiking.

This was the Crew's last shakedown. The Crew has hiked many miles and learned to use backpacking stoves, wash dishes the Philmont way, purify water, and to hang bear bags. We are ready! On July 8, 2014, the Crew will assemble at BWI airport for the flight out to Denver, CO, where we will be met and driven to Cimarron, NM, to begin our twelve day trek. **Philmont here we come!**



White Water Rafting – May Outing



Our annual trip to Ohiopyle, PA was a success again this year. Lots of rain in the recent weeks raised the water level 8 feet higher than the average level which made the rivers run much faster than usual. We were lucky, though, as the rivers were all closed to rafting the day before. The water was so fast that a guide was mandatory in every boat. The water temperature was 52 degrees so almost all participants wore wet suits. The groups on the middle Yough had a great time. No one fell out and the water ran so fast that they didn't get to eat their lunch until after their full run was over. The groups that tackled the lower Yough had fun navigating level 3 and 4 rapids. Luck was with this group, too, as no rafters fell out into the white water. A few of the bolder scouts did opt to jump out and swim at designated stops. The sane adults opted to stay as dry and warm as possible in the rafts. The activities ended with the traditional trip into town for ice cream. Next year the boys want to add a trip to natural slide to the agenda. Back at the camp site, the adults were treated to a multi-national culinary feast courtesy of Dr. Albuerne, Mr. Cho, Mr. Verleysen and Mr. Matthews. Many diets and waistlines were ruined that weekend. The real winners were the first year parents who learned camping doesn't necessarily mean roughing it when it comes to food.





Advancement Updates



Rank

- Scout (3) - Ryan Jiang, Enric Jiao, Aitan Bachrach
- Tenderfoot (1) - Nick Benner
- 1st Class (1) - Connor Maloney
- Life (1) - Garrett Currie

Merit Badges

- Camping - Alex Bisant
- Citizen in the Community - Joey Peters
- Personal Management - Adam Albuerne

Great Job Scouts!

National Pike Fishing Tournament



When: Saturday, July 12th 8:30 Am – 10:30 AM

Where: Centennial Lake in Columbia

Bring: Your own bait, rod and bucket

Cost: \$6 in advance or \$8 at the event

Register online:

<http://www.baltimorebsa.org/event/1542946>

National Pike District's Provisional Camping

If your camper is not able to attend summer camp with Troop 615 or would like another week of summer camp, don't worry! They can attend a provisional week of camp at Camp Saffran.

Who: Open to all Boy Scouts in the National Pike District

When: Sunday, 7/27-Saturday, 8/2

Where: Camp Saffran, Broad Creek Reservation
Cost Per: \$340 (single camper), \$310 (provisional buddy team)

More Information:

<http://www.broadcreekbsa.org/summer-camp/provisional-camping/42962>

Training Opportunities

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader-Specific Training - 9/6 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Columbia Academy

Register: <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/training/boy-scout-leader-training/55987>

Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills - 9/19 6:00 PM - 9/20 8:00 PM; Knights of Columbus, Owings Mills

<http://www.baltimorebsa.org/openrosters/calendar.asp>

Powder Horn 8/4-8/7; Camp Spencer Whiteford, MD - Any registered adult or youth member of BSA 14+ can attend.

Purpose: Educate youth and adult Scout leaders about specific high-adventure skills, to connect them to resources to deliver those skills, and to get them excited about delivering those skills in an exciting, challenging way to youth.

Register: <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/powderhorn>



It's Time to Update Health Forms!

Every year, ALL scouts must submit updated health forms. The forms are due by June 11th. But you don't have to wait! If your forms are complete, you can turn them in now!

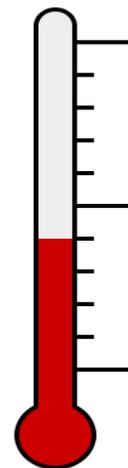
All adults and scouts planning to attend Boy Scout summer camp must complete Parts A, B and C of the health form. Part C must be signed by a physician so consider scheduling those physicals now. The BSA health form for summer camp must have a signature date of July 27, 2013 or later. **Please submit a total of 3 copies of the forms.**

The Ockanickon web site has information about their health policies for Boy Scout summer camp: <http://www.ockanickon.org/summer-camping/policies/health-policies/>

All adults, scouts and siblings attending any of the Boy Scout weekend outings (and not attending summer camp) must complete Parts A and B. Please submit a total of 2 copies of the forms.

A helpful guide is available to help minimize errors and omissions on the forms. The health form and helpful guide are available from the Troop 615 web site:

<http://www.bsa615.com/documents/forms/>



**Health Forms
29% Complete!**

2014 Ockanickon Summer Camp Registration Form

***** Camp Dates: July 20 (Sun) – July 26 (Sat) *****

Troop 615 will be going to summer camp at Ockanickon Scout Reservation
in beautiful Bucks County, Pennsylvania. www.ockanickon.org

Complete the form below, and then give the bottom portion along with your payment (checks payable to Troop 615)
to one of the following adult leaders:

Jill Reese or Shura Kendzierski, Summer Camp Coordinators, or David Gattis, ASM
OR MAIL TO: Jill Reese at 2735 Dunleer Road, Ellicott City 21042

Scout Health forms will be due in early June 2014 – so get those physicals scheduled NOW.
Camp T-shirts and Camp Photos will be ordered at a future date for an additional (small) fee.

| Payment Type | Amount |
|---|-----------|
| Cash | \$ |
| Check # _____ | \$ |
| Scout Account (Check with Yung Cho for current balance) | \$ |
| Total = | \$ |

Please retain this upper section for your records.

Please submit this lower section along with your payment (payable to Troop 615).

2014 Ockanickon Summer Camp Registration Form

***** Camp Dates: July 20 (Sun) – July 26 (Sat) *****

Scout: _____

Summer Camp Fees

| Rate | Camp Fee | Due Date |
|--------------------|----------|------------|
| Special Discounted | \$389 | 02-26-2014 |
| Regular | \$407 | 04-23-2014 |
| Late | \$433 | 05-28-2014 |
| Webelos Crossover | \$389 | 05-28-2014 |

| Payment Type | Amount |
|----------------|-----------|
| Cash | \$ |
| Check # _____ | \$ |
| Scout Account | \$ |
| Total = | \$ |