

# **TROOP 266 NEWSLETTER**

**February 2009**

## **"OUTSIDE THE BOX"**

By Scoutmaster Barry Kirk

"Outside the Box" is but one of the many trendy terms used these days to describe trying something new or doing something differently than it's always been done before. It's doing something uncommon, or in an uncommon way. Sometimes it can mean going outside one's comfort zone, allowing one's self to be challenged, to be stretched, to grow. But here's my point... to be challenged and to grow, you first have to get "outside the box." In other words, leave your comfort zone. Each of us has talents and skills (like tools) we may not know we have or how to use them until we take them out of the box and put them to use. Many times this has been the case for me when I've been faced with incredible opportunities brilliantly disguised as daunting challenges. I won't deny that with each challenge I've faced that I wasn't also questioning my abilities to be successful. But unless I tried, I'd never know. Such was the case when I began my career in the ARMY. I couldn't predict how my career would unfold. I just knew that something about being a Soldier stirred up something within me. When I started, I didn't know what went into "being a Soldier." But when I was done, I had served 24 years, longer than any previous member of my family; and I had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, also higher than any previous serving family member - dating back to the Civil War when 2 of my ancestors served. Looking back, I had been a Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Senior TAC (Teach, Advise, and Counsel) for an Officer Candidate School, and served on Battalion, Brigade, and Division-level staffs, as well as graduating from the US ARMY Command and General Staff College. But I NEVER would've predicted it. The key was I had to take myself "outside the box," and dare myself to step up to the challenges.

Now, one more time, I find myself "outside the box" when I answered the call to be SCOUTMASTER. Was I nervous? You bet! Did I ever see myself previously in this role? Nope. Did I know what I was doing? Not really. Was I the most qualified? No way. But was I willing? Yes. What's more, I bring to being your SCOUTMASTER the experiences I've gained from my past. You see, what makes us a success is not whether we know all the answers, but in our willingness to admit when we don't, and then seek the counsel of those who know more than you, who have been there before.

So this is my challenge to each of you: are YOU willing to take yourself "outside the box" and pursue the many scouting challenges and HIGH ADVENTURE opportunities awaiting you? Do YOU feel the stirring within you to answer the call to LEADERSHIP opportunities in your scouting experience? To actively seek leadership opportunities that will stretch you? I would challenge you to do so. Why? Because it will be the experience you gain that you will carry onto every "next" challenge you face on into adult-hood.

## **TROOP ORDER OF THE ARROW ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup>**

by Barry Kirk

OA is a unique opportunity to glean even more from your scouting experience. Based on the ideals of experienced camping and fellowship, OA standards are high for a reason. The fellowship and camaraderie parallel "great" organizations; and I'm very guarded in what I endorse. I personally hold OA with high regard as a goal worthy of one's best efforts. In the next few weeks you will be asked to consider voting your conscience for a select group of your peers who are eligible for membership based on how they exemplify the Scouting Spirit. I urge you to be responsible in how you vote. It's not about popularity. It's about the Scouting ideals. So listen to the OA representatives when they come and talk to you, and vote wisely. The following Scouts will be eligible for election to the Order of the Arrow this month:

Jake Blakeslee	Alex I. Jones
Harrison Coleman	Colin Kirkmire
Mathew Geisler	Brent Knutzen
Riley Grimstead	Jacob Min
Brian Hegge	Ryan Williams

### **SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCES** by Barry Kirk

I saw the need to standardize Scoutmaster Conferences at all levels, based on reports I've received from adult leaders who participate in Boards of Review. A prevalent observation is that many scouts come to the BOR having either forgotten or never fully understanding how to apply the SCOUT OATH and LAW to their lives in a practical and relative way. Also, I found that Scoutmaster Conferences varied from patrol to patrol. So, we're going back to basics. Only registered Sr. Asst. Scoutmasters will do Scoutmaster Conferences as follows:

Tenderfoot - First Class: Mr. Jan Skoropinski / Mr. Dan Bode  
Star / Life: Mr. Chris Jones / Mr. Bill Hegge / Mr. Dan Bode  
Eagle: Mr. Kirk

Adults who would like to be involved in the Scoutmaster Conference process are invited to become Registered Adult Leaders first. We will train and mentor you accordingly. This is a GREAT Troop, made up of GREAT Scouts, and GREAT Adult Leaders.

### **NEW BOY SCOUT ANNUAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RECORD**

In last month's newsletter there was an article about the new annual health form. It has been decided that for 2009 Troop 266 will NOT voluntarily convert to the new form, choosing instead to encourage any scout or adult who needs an updated physical for summer camp in 2009 to complete the existing Class 2 or 3 Medical form. The main rationale for this decision is the ease of managing the forms during 2009 if they are all in the same format. Since either the current Class 2 or 3 forms, as well as the new Annual Health and Medical Record, would both need to be replaced for 2010 it is irrelevant which form is used for 2009. However, be prepared for total conversion to the new form in 2010.

# Mark your calendar now .....

**SUMMER CAMP 2009 @ Camp Easton, Idaho**

**Choice of two dates:**

**July 11 - 18 (32 spaces)**

**July 25 - Aug 1 (32 spaces)**

*This trip includes an afternoon/evening visit to Silverwood Theme Park prior to arriving at camp late Saturday evening.*

Location: The east side of beautiful Lake Coeur D'Alene in Harrison, Idaho

Activities: 30+ merit badges including First Aid, Rowing, Snorkeling, Scuba, Kayaking, Waterskiing, and Motorboating, plus Trail-to-First-Class for new scouts

Transportation: chartered bus

Cost: \$275 includes R/T transportation, Saturday night cracker-barrel, Sunday breakfast & lunch and lunch money for the return trip home.

**Silverwood Theme Park admission to be determined.**

Deposit: \$100 due by **March 20, 2009**

Final Payment (balance \$175) will be due by **April 30, 2009**

(PLEASE NOTE: Scouts may earn their fees for summer camp through participation in the coffee fundraiser.)

**Sign-up with Camp Coordinator, Lisa Bishop, BEFORE any regular troop meeting. Questions?? Lisa Bishop 791-2694**

## **COFFEE FUNDRAISER**

Once again the troop will be selling coffee to raise money for individual scout activity accounts. The fundraiser will start on March 10<sup>th</sup> and continue through April 21<sup>st</sup>. The coffee will sell for \$10.00 a pound and \$5.00 will go directly into each scout's account. Mrs. Clark will be announcing all the details at the February 24<sup>th</sup> troop meeting. Thank you to Backyard Roast and Mr. Drinkard for being our coffee supplier this year!

## **SPAGHETTI DINNER BENEFIT FOR MARK DEMPSEY**

During the Thanksgiving Holidays Mark and his Grandparents lost their home and all their personal possessions to a fire. The Olympia Elks have scheduled a spaghetti dinner fund raiser to help out Mark and his grandparents, for Sunday, March 15th, from 1-4 pm. The location is at the Olympia Elks Lodge at 1818 4th Avenue, just one block south (downhill) from Ralph's Thriftway. If you would like to help out Mark and the Murphy family, plan to stop by for some spaghetti. And, tell your friends.

## **INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR BOY SCOUT EXPENSES**

Did you know that many of the costs associated with adult membership in BSA are tax deductible? The Boy Scouts of America and individual troops are considered qualified organizations to receive contributions that are deductible. If you itemize deductions when you file your Federal tax return, you could benefit by recognizing these Boy Scouts costs. Membership fees or dues can be deducted if the amount is more than the value of the benefits received. All dues for adult volunteers are deductible, but Scouts receive the benefit of the program in exchange for their payment of dues. Beginning this year, \$10 of each membership fee is a contribution to Friends of Scouting and is deductible for both Scouts and Adults. And of course, individual contributions to the Friends of Scouting are always fully deductible. Adult volunteers may deduct the costs of gas, oil, parking fees and tolls that are directly related to getting to and from the place where volunteer service is provided. This includes weekly troop meetings, committee meetings, and campouts or outings where the costs are not reimbursed from collected outing fees. In lieu of calculating actual costs for gas and oil you can deduct 14 cents for each mile. Adult volunteers can also deduct the cost of buying and cleaning BSA uniforms because the uniforms are not suitable for everyday use and you must wear them when volunteering. The cost of items that are purchased and donated to the troop, including camping gear or food for outings are also deductible if not reimbursed by the troop. The cost of meals for adult volunteers that are eaten while performing services for the troop are not deductible unless it is necessary for the volunteer to be away from home overnight while performing the services (high adventure trips and overnight backpacking trips). You must keep records for cash contributions. Records must be in the form of cancelled checks, account statements, receipts or other reliable written records. Recent changes to tax law require the troop to provide an acknowledgement to the volunteer that no goods or services were provided by the troop as reimbursement for Unreimbursed Out-of-Pocket expenses. The troop plans to provide this acknowledgement at the end of each year via email. The foregoing is offered to inform taxpayers of the possibility of beneficial tax treatment of their scouting expenses. For more information about deductible expenses consult IRS Publication 526 *Charitable Contributions*, the instructions for Schedule A (Form 1040) *Itemized Deductions*, and [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## **NEW CENTENNIAL BSA SCOUT UNIFORM**

Have you noticed that BSA introduced a new Class A uniform last year? The new uniform features modern fabrics and design features like a small pocket on the left sleeve and convertible pants with legs that zip off to become shorts. With the new design also comes a change in the color of unit numerals and shoulder loops from red to forest green. Either red or green is acceptable for the Class A uniform, as there is no requirement to convert. However, as new Scouts cross-over from Cub Scouts and join Boy Scouts you will begin to see more of the new uniforms. The troop will be purchasing the one-piece troop 3-digit numeral "266" in the new forest green color to provide to new scouts as they join the troop. Anyone interested in converting their existing red number patch to the new forest green number patch is also welcome to purchase the new patch from Dave Bartruff once they are available, which should be in about a month. The cost will be \$2.50 per patch. Individual numbers are currently available from the scout store for \$1.19 each plus tax if you can't wait. If you do convert your troop number you should also convert to the forest green shoulder loops at the same time. You will need to purchase the shoulder loops from the scout store on your own at a cost of \$1.99 plus tax.

## **TROOP AND PATROL ELECTIONS**

Next month we will elect new leaders for our troop. Our goal is for Troop 266 to be Boy Led, Boy Run, so these elections are critical. The Scouts will elect the Senior Patrol Leader at the September 11 troop meeting, and the Scouts in each patrol will elect their Patrol Leaders at the September 18 patrol meetings. For our new patrols, this patrol election will be their first.

### Senior Patrol Leader or SPL

We have several requirements for Senior Patrol Leader, the chief executive officer or CEO of Troop 266.

First, this young man must give his consent in advance to run for and serve as SPL.

Second, this young man must be eligible to serve as SPL during the entire six months. For example, no scout who will turn 18 years of age during this six-month period can run for SPL.

Third, absent extraordinary circumstances, this young man must be available for the entire Fall Planning Conference (or "Fall APC"), which is November 5-6, 2005, at Camp Thunderbird. Significantly, the District Merit Badge Pow Wow occurs this weekend, so the SPL will be unable to attend this Pow Wow. This Fall APC is one of the most important events that occurs during the SPL's term. The SPL will have a difficult time planning his term unless he attends. If you cannot attend the Fall APC, you should discuss the conflict with Mr. Palmer before running.

## Duties of a SPL

- Run all troop meetings, events, activities, and the Fall APC.
- Chair meetings of the patrol leaders' council or PLC.
- Appoint troop members to serve in the troop's other junior leader positions (with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster).
- Delegate duties and responsibilities to other junior leaders.
- Assist the Scoutmaster with troop junior leader training.
- Set a good example.
- Wear the Scout uniform correctly.
- Live by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Show Scout spirit.

## Patrol Leader or PL

We have several requirements for Patrol Leaders, the chief executive officer for a patrol.

First, this Scout must give his consent to run for and serve as PL.

Second, this Scout must be eligible to serve as PL during the entire six months. No scout who will turn 18 years of age during this six-month period can run for PL.

Third, absent extraordinary circumstances, this young man must be available for the Fall APC, which is October 20-21, 2007 at Camp Thunderbird. This Fall APC is one of the most important events that occurs during the PL's term. The PL will have a difficult time planning patrol activities and becoming part of the PLC team unless he attends. If you cannot attend the Fall APC, you should discuss the conflict with your Patrol Advisor before running.

## What is expected of each PL?

- Represent the patrol at all PLC meetings and the Fall APC.
- Keep patrol members informed of decisions made by the PLC.
- Play a key role in planning, leading, and evaluating patrol meetings and activities.
- Help the patrol prepare to participate in all troop activities.
- Learn about the abilities of other patrol members and fully involve them in patrol and troop activities by assigning them specific tasks and responsibilities.
- Attend troop junior leader training and continue to work on advancement.
- Encourage patrol members to complete their own advancement requirements.
- Set a good example by having a positive attitude, wearing the Scout uniform, showing patrol spirit, and expecting the best from yourself and others.
- Devote the time necessary to be an effective leader.
- Work with others in the troop to make the troop go.
- Live by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Solicit ideas and concerns from patrol members so they have input to the planning and operation of the patrol.



## ORDER OF THE ARROW REPORT

By Karl Sergiojan, O/A Troop Representative

We had our annual Chehalis Chapter Planning meeting earlier this month. We have lots of good ideas for fun events this year. Look here next month for more information on upcoming events. Our Lodge held a Lodge Leadership Development event last weekend with good attendance. It is a great way to learn leadership skills for those who are (or aspire to be) in leadership positions. Our next big event coming up February 20-22 is our Spring Fellowship at Camp Thunderbird. Pre-registration is at the Scout Office. Cost is \$15 now or \$20 at the door. It is one of our most fun events of the year. All Arrowmen are welcome to attend.

Mark your calendars now for another great event. Our Section Conclave will be held this year at Camp Piggott near Monroe, Washington April 24-26, 2009. You can get all the details and register for Conclave at [www.sectionw1b.org](http://www.sectionw1b.org).

And later this year, our Lodge will be sending a contingent to the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) at Indiana University. Those dates are August 1-6, 2009, and this event is open to all Arrowmen. Yes, even you newly elected Arrowmen may attend, as long as you have your Ordeal completed before the event. Everyone should attend NOAC if they can. It is an experience of a lifetime, and thousands of Arrowmen from all over the world will be there! For details, see the NOAC website at <http://event.oa-bsa.org/events/n2009/>.

For more information on these and other exciting Order of the Arrow happenings and opportunities, contact O-A Troop Representative Karl Sergiojan or Chehalis Chapter Advisor Jack Sergiojan at [molodyetz@aol.com](mailto:molodyetz@aol.com).

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

The following scouts are celebrating their birthday in January.

Justin Henry	16
Jacob Min	13
Paul Raines	15
Luke Larson	14
Garrett Nail	17
Riley Grimstead	13
Daniel Nail	13
Andrew Escobedo	15
Matt Hahn	13

### FEBRUARY ADVANCEMENTS

The following Scout advanced at the February Board of Review. Congratulations!

**Alex Burruss** Star

## COMING UP

- 1) February 20-22: Order of the Arrow Fellowship at Camp Thunderbird;
- 2) February 24: Troop Meeting; Merit Badge Class #3; Order of the Arrow Elections; Coffee Fundraiser Kickoff;
- 3) March 2: Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting;
- 4) March 3: PLC / PAC / BOR;
- 5) March 7: Life to Eagle Workshop at Good Shepherd Church (**date change**)
- 6) March 9: Order of the Arrow Lodge Executive Committee Meeting;
- 7) March 10: Troop Elections;
- 8) March 15: Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for Mark Dempsey;
- 9) March 17: Patrol Elections;
- 10) March 24: Summer Programs, Seeker Welcome;
- 11) March 28: Spring Planning Conference at Camp Thunderbird;
- 12) March 31: PLC / PAC / BOR;
- 13) April 7: NO TROOP MEETING (Spring Break), except for Seekers;
- 14) April 14: Troop Meeting, Merit Badge Class #4;
- 15) April 18: Merit Badge Powwow;
- 16) April 21: Troop Meeting;
- 17) April 24-26: Order of the Arrow Section Conclave, Camp Piggott;
- 18) April 25: New Scout Campout #1 at Camp Delezenne;
- 19) April 28: Troop Meeting, Merit Badge Class #5;

Please submit your stories, items of interest, and any other contributions for upcoming newsletters to the Newsletter Editor, Jack Sergoian, at [molodyetz@aol.com](mailto:molodyetz@aol.com).