

TROOP 266 NEWSLETTER

November 2009

SCOUTMASTER MINUTE

***Barry Kirk
Scoutmaster***

You've heard the saying "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link". That's absolutely true. With this chain, I can pull a car or lift a heavy load - I can perform many tasks. But, if I try to lift something that is too heavy, one of the links will break - the weakest link will let down the rest of the chain.

In Scouting, each scout works on personal advancement to strengthen himself and improve his skills. Personal advancement increases the strength of each link in our chain so we can accomplish more.

But, there will always be a weakest link. No matter what the task at hand, some person will be less skilled than the others. Someone will not be able to tie a certain knot, or kindle a fire, or hike as fast, or recite as well as the others. At some point, each of you will be a weakest link - I guarantee it! Being the weakest link is not a shameful thing - it is an opportunity for improvement.

One of the best things about Scouting is that our "chain" is better than a simple metal chain. When we have a task to do, we are not really limited by our weakest link. The other stronger or more skilled or more experienced links support the weaker links. They help them, teach them, and guide them. As a result, we accomplish much more than if we each just did our specific task and left the rest.

Do your best to not be the weakest link - for yourself and for your patrol and for your troop. Learn skills, take on challenges, grow! But, be aware that around here the weakest link one day might be the strongest the next - and the strongest may be the weakest.

Popcorn Prizes!!

If you sold popcorn this year, you don't want to miss this Tuesday's scout meeting. Popcorn prizes are here and they will be handed out during the scout meeting, so be sure to come on time.

If you did not sell popcorn this year, please come and support your friends who did and rejoice with them. Find out who gets what cool prize, and plan on earning one next year too.

Seabase Reservations

The troop has reservations for two crews to spend a week in the Florida Keys. The trip starts Dec. 26th next year. The sailing crew still needs 5 members (1 adult) as we've been announcing at meetings. I will open the crew to other local troops now. If you know local scouts who would like to go, have them call Dan Bode at 451-1832.

Winter camp Equipment & Gear Information

The winter camp training on November 24th will cover snow camping equipment & gear information.

Reminder - New Boy Scout Annual Health and Medical Record

The new Health and Medical Record is required for all scouting activities beginning January 1, 2010. The new form has three parts. **Parts A and C** are to be completed annually by all BSA unit members, both Scouts and Adults. Both parts are required for all events that do not exceed 72 consecutive hours. **Part A** documents the individual's health history and lists medications. **Part C** includes the parental consent and hold harmless/release agreement as well as a talent release statement. These two parts are required before participation in any troop events. This will include patrol activities as well as troop weekend campouts. **Part B** is required for any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, a summer camp, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding. It is to be completed and signed by a certified and licensed health-care provider. It includes a height/weight chart that must be adhered to if an event will take the individual beyond a radius where emergency evacuation is more than 30 minutes by ground transportation.

Action Required NOW/before the first patrol/troop activity in 2010. Access the **Part A and C** forms at the link provided below, complete the form, print it out, sign it and submit it to the troop. You can also access the form from the troop and council web page. The first troop activity that will require the completion of Parts A and C will be the Winter/Snow campout on February 13th.

Action Required before Summer Camp or backpacking in 2010. Schedule an appointment with your health-care provider for a health exam. Have the provider complete and sign a copy of **Part B** and submit it to the troop. Update the Part A and C at the same time and everything will be good for 12 consecutive months.

The new form is available at: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34605_Letter.pdf

A Frequently Asked Questions sheet provided by BSA can be viewed at:
<http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Resources/MedicalFormFAQs.aspx>

Troop Membership Dues Renewal

It is time for your annual renewal as a member of Troop 266. You may make your dues payment at any upcoming troop meeting or by mail to Dave Bartruff at 3201 Amhurst St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Please

make your payment no later than November 17, 2009 so that the registration with the council office is not delayed. BSA Registration for Scouts is also contingent on meeting the troop expectation of selling five wreaths during the Troop Holiday Wreath fundraiser or paying the no-sale buyout-option payment. Payments may be made by cash or check that is made payable to Troop 266 or by using funds from your Scout Account. To continue or begin a subscription to Boy's Life magazine please mark the appropriate line and include the extra \$12.00 in your payment. New subscriptions begin delivery about April of next year. If you do not plan to continue your membership in Boy Scouts please contact Dave Bartruff & let him know so he will not need to re-contact you.

If your family registration last year included adult leader registrations, to continue adult registration(s) please indicate their name(s) on the form and return dues payment of \$20.00 per adult in addition to the Scout annual dues and Boy's Life. If an adult is also registered in another unit (Cub or Boy Scout) and the BSA registration fee is paid by the other unit you are considered a Dual Member. There are no dues for a Dual Member in Troop 266. If an adult in your family that has not previously been registered as an adult leader (Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Member) wishes to do so for 2010 the adult needs to fill out an Adult Registration form in addition to paying the \$20.00 dues. Forms are available from Dave Bartruff. If a previously registered adult in your family does not wish to register for 2010 simply do not pay the \$20.00 registration fee.

Troop Wreath Sales

The wreath sale fundraiser wrapped up on Tuesday, November 10th when all orders should have been submitted to Susan Drinkard. The wreaths will be available for pick-up in two weeks at the troop meeting on November 24th. This fundraiser is established to help pay for troop operations, ceremonies and awards, some summer camp fees as well as scholarships, and community donations. This is the only time each year money is raised solely for the troop. Because of this, *Each Scout is expected to sell a minimum of 5 wreaths or do the No Sale option payment, which this year is \$7.00 per wreath.* If wreaths were not sold then the No Sale option payment should have been made on November 10th. If the payment was not made, families will be contacted soon to make arrangements for payment. Any Scout who has paid dues for membership in 2010 who has not sold five wreaths or paid the no-sell option payment will not be submitted to the Council for membership for 2010. Anyone not registered as a part of unit recharter will not be eligible to take part in troop activities and will be required to complete a new membership application form to reinstate BSA membership after payment of the no-sell option donation.

Thriftway Community Rebate Card

Stormans Inc, owner of Ralph's Thriftway, Bayview Thriftway and Bayview Catering, offer community non-profit organizations, like Boy Scout Troops, the opportunity to receive a 1% rebate on all sales at their locations. In the past Troop 266 has benefited by receiving several hundreds of dollars through this program. Do you already shop there? Do you have a Troop 266 Community Rebate Card? If not, please pick up a card from Dave Bartruff at any troop meeting and then present the card before every purchase. Also, please feel free to take additional cards and pass them out to family members, neighbors, friends or fellow workers if they might also be Thriftway customers. Proceeds from the 1% rebate help the troop fund programs and awards for the scouts and subsidize summer camp and high adventure costs.

Coastal Waters Klondike Derby, January 29-31

The District Executive has just sent notice to the troop that there will be a Klondike Derby during the last weekend of January, 2010. The Klondike Derby will again be held at Camp Delezenne near Elma, WA. This is a fun event and the opportunity to earn two nights of camping. Since we have received short notice about this event it is not yet on the troop calendar. Each patrol should consider if they would like to participate. If more than one patrol is interested in attending then it can become a troop event. If your patrol is interested, let the Scoutmaster, Barry Kirk, know.

Brandon Maguire achieves Eagle Scout rank: Back on August 3, 2009 Brandon Maguire achieved the highest rank in Boy Scouts, the rank of Eagle. Brandon accomplished this feat after being a member of Troop 266 for seven years and follows in the footsteps of his older brother Preston. Brandon made First Class a little over one year after joining the troop. He then advanced to Star two years later in October 2005 and Life in July 2007. Brandon has served the troop as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and as a Project Leader. The highlights of Brandon's scouting activities include attendance at two summer camps (Black Mountain and Fire Mountain) and numerous patrol activities, including clam digging and hiking. Brandon has earned the 50-miler award for completing the Evergreen Trek in 2003. These outdoor activities have helped Brandon log 101 miles of hiking. He has supported his fellow Scouts by working on five Eagle Service projects which helped him accumulate 20 hours of service. For his Eagle Project he cleaned a pathway connecting Olympia High School to the local neighborhoods to eliminate a hiding location for students wishing to skip class and in an effort to safeguard the OHS childcare from potential predators. Brandon graduated from Olympia High School in 2009. He is currently is studying criminology and playing football at the University of Montana. Brandon's advice to younger scouts is to "get your eagle rank prior to your driver's license". He said that as a three sport athlete it was extremely hard to add scouting activities into the mix while playing at a varsity level his junior and senior year. He also is very appreciative of all the Troop 266 adult volunteers.

CAPITAL DISTRICT NIGHT HIKE

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2009 TO SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2009
AT CAMP THUNDERBIRD**

Starts: 6:00 PM for Check- In Ends at 8:00 AM

Cost: \$15.00 / Scout & Adults (Includes Patch, Pre-Hike Dinner and Breakfast.)

Light Dinner will be served. Kitchen will be available to heat food brought from home.

Ages: Scouts and Venture Groups /

Second Year Webelos need approval from **Kim Skoropinski 360-705-3527** or 790-5621 cell

If planning to stay at the camp on Saturday, please contact Dan Collet the camp Ranger (360-866-0916).

The Hike will occur in all kinds of weather so come prepared. It is a ten mile hike with activity stations. Scouts are scored on their performance as a team. Scouts get a patch and breakfast. There will be troop award ribbons for the top three teams.

MUST BRING: Day Pack, Hiking Boots, Rain Gear, First Aid Kit, Water Bottle, Flashlight, Pen, Compass, and Trail Mix. Complete Set Extra Clothes, Sleeping bag.

*****Please Label Clothes and Equipment. Lost and found call 360-357-3331.*****

!!!!!!! SCOUTS IN TENNIS SHOES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HIKE!!!!!!!

Scouts and Adults must have pack inspection prior to hiking. Scouts without proper gear will not be allowed to hike for safety reasons. Scouts will be out hiking most of the night in groups of 8 -10. Since groups will be staggered, some scouts will get done earlier than others. Sleeping Bags and dry clothes will be kept at the Camp Dining Hall.

Leaders and parents will be assigned to help run events and must come with the same supplies as the scouts. Bring a hot water thermos to contain hot beverage. Tarp or covering is recommended. Camp Stove to heat water and food is recommended. Stool to sit on and Lantern.

Two Adults must plan to stay for each troop registering. Or one adult if a single scout is attending. Scouts are monitored closely while hiking. This event is designed for scouts to participate as a group without an adult leading the hike group. (exception is 2nd year Webelos and Scouts with special needs.)

Patches will be handed out at the end of the Hike. Please do not forget to collect your patch. Ribbons for the highest scoring team will be mailed out after the Hike. The scores should be posted on the internet by the next week.

Siblings that are not registered as part of the troop can come if they are accompanied by a parent. Friends or relatives not registered as part of the troop are not covered under troop insurance. The parent must sign a letter acknowledging this and waiving the troop from liability if the child is injured and sign a permission slip with medical information. If under the age of 12 they must be accompanied by an adult.

*****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****

Only those who pre-register will be guaranteed patches. Adults are allowed to hike as participants separate from scouts. **ADULTS AND OLDER SCOUTS WHO SIGN UP AS STAFF BY NOVEMBER 18TH WITH KIM SKOROPINSKI WILL NOT HAVE TO PAY A REGISTRATION FEE. (CALL KIM @ 360-705-3527 or 360- 902-6682)**

Volunteers are needed to do the following:

- Help Set up the course On Friday.**
- Run a Station (Ten Stations total)**
- Pack Inspection**
- Monitor the Camp Dining Room**
- Clean Dishes**
- Clean Dining Hall at the end of the Hike Saturday Morning.**
- Orientate and send out Hiking Teams**

YES! We will attend the Night Hike. Register online at PacificHarbors.org (click on Capital District) Or Contact District Office 360-357-3331 or Kim Skoropinski 360-705-3527

Troop # _____ Scout Leader _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 # Scouts / attending _____ X \$15.00 = \$ _____
 # Adults attending _____ X \$15.00 = \$ _____ (staff _____)
 Contact person _____ phone _____
 Address: _____

DISTRICT NIGHT HIKE

TO SPEED UP THE REGISTRATION PROCESS FILL THIS ROSTER OUT AND BRING TO CAMP THUNDERBIRD WHEN YOU ARRIVE. Include the class one medical form for scouts and class 3 for adults.

EMERGENCY

TROOP _____ CONTACT _____
 PHONE/ADDRESS _____

ADULT NAME	PHONE	AGE	MEDICAL CONDITION?	Volunteer? Yes/No
1 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

SCOUT NAME	PHONE	AGE	MEDICAL CONDITION?
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1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

NIGHT HIKE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A NIGHT HIKE?

The night hike is a 10 mile course that begins at Camp Thunderbird and goes east along the road to the Simpson property around a logging road and back to Camp Thunderbird. There are 10 challenge activities along the way.

WHY DO WE HAVE NIGHT HIKES?

This is a unique opportunity for scouts to experience all the elements one might encounter if lost in the woods or faced with a disaster. This includes weather, fatigue, dark, stress and the need to problem solve. The hike is unique in that Troops may let a team of scouts complete the course without an adult as the leader.

SHOULD WE BRING OUR DINNER?

Scouts are forever hungry. Scouts may not have eaten prior to arriving. A small dinner will be provided or you can bring a dinner. Oven and microwave are available. There is plenty of time to eat while waiting to begin the hike.

WHY CAN'T HIKERS WEAR TENNIS SHOES?

For safety reasons all scouts must wear hiking boots or boots that will keep feet dry and protected. The hike occurs in all kinds of weather. Tennis shoes are not water proof and do not provide adequate support on heavy rock.

IF WE COME EARLY DO WE GET TO HIKE SOONER?

Scouts that come first get to register first however scouts are put through pack inspection and then put into teams. Teams may depart at different times for the hike.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE REGISTRATION GO FASTER?

The help at the hike is all-volunteer. When 400 people show up to register at the same time this can cause a log jam. Having registration material all filled out, and scouts ready for pack inspection speeds the process. Having more adults volunteer to help with registration will speed up the registration process.

WHY DO SCOUTS HAVE TO WAIT BEFORE THEY CAN HIKE?

Scouts once they complete registration must wait for volunteers to reach their activity stations before scouts can start hiking. If adults can volunteer to come early and fill stations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10 by 7 pm then hiking can begin sooner.

WHAT CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR?

There are 10 activity stations 2 on Camp Thunderbird and 8 on the Simpson property. We need a minimum of 4 adults at each station. There can be 2 cars at each station and adult usually have an all night party. Then Help is needed for registration for paper work, pack inspections, getting scouts out in teams to hike, cooks, dish washers, cleanup crew in the morning. We supply fire wood for each station for a small fire. Any donated wood is appreciated.

SAFETY ISSUES?

Please use your flash lights. Follow your map. Keep together as a team. When walking on the road face traffic and stay on the side. Eat snack food along the hike. There are ham radio monitors at 3 stations. A truck will circle the trail and stay in communication with the staff at Camp Thunderbird. If you are diabetic or have special needs let Hike Staff / Kim Skoropinski know before you leave on the hike.

Alumni update:

Dan Gibson (Eagle 11-16-04, Hawk Patrol) is currently a Geology Major at the University of Puerto Rico.

Jason Horton (8-28-97, Flaming Arrow Patrol) is a member of the internationally acclaimed Hubbard Street Dance Chicago that performed Friday, October 23rd, at the Paramount Theater in Seattle. Jason was featured in an article in The Olympia on October 20th.

Col Kevin Wilson, father of Eagle Scouts Ben and Jake, is deployed again to Afghanistan as the commander of the Afgan Engineer District South out of Kandahar. Ben Wilson (3-12-99, Flaming Arrow Patrol) is a Captain and Executive office of the Madigan Hospital Patient troop unit. Jake Wilson (5-9-00, Rattlesnake Patrol) is a hydraulic test engineer for John Deere in Dubuque, Iowa.

Karl Sergiojan (11-16-04, Badger Patrol) stopped by the November 3rd PLC and PAC meetings to talk about his experiences as a freshman (Class of 2013) at the Merchant Marine Academy. Karl was on a short leave from his studies at the Kings Point, NY academy and while home gave talks to students at Capital High School and the scouts and adult leaders of the troop. While visiting he turned in his application to become a BSA Assistant Scoutmaster upon his 18th birth date in December.

Ryan Bartruff (3-19-02, Rattlesnake Patrol) was married to Lelia Scherer of Saratoga Springs, NY on June 13th 2009 in Albany, NY. They make their home in New York City in the Washington Heights section of upper Manhattan Island. Ryan continues as a gymnastics coach for Kids Club of New York and is pursuing a second degree, in early childhood development and education, at Lehman College in Brooklyn.

Marty Bode (4-28-02, Falcon Patrol) is currently a teaching assistant and Purdue University in Indiana. Marty returned this year from a year's study in Stuttgart, Germany as a Fulbright Scholar after graduating in June 2008 from Linfield College with a degree in applied physics. Marty just might bump into Jamie Polivka (7-19-05, Hawk Patrol) a current Purdue undergraduate student.

ADVANCEMENTS

**The following Scouts advanced at the November Board of Review.
Congratulations!**

Nick Thompson	1st class (this one was earned 10/20/09)
Michael Wertz	Star
Ian Culhane	1st class
Grant Dunn	Eagle (Also 10/20/09)
Brent Knutzen	Star

TROOP 266 CALENDAR 11/01/09 - 02/28/10

	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
November			
11/03/09	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
11/09/09	Cmte	Room 115	Committee Meeting
11/10/09	Troop Mtg		Wreath Orders Turn-In
11/14/09	Event	Camp Thunderbird	Rally Day
11/17/09	Troop Mtg		MB CI #4/2010 Mbrshp Dues
11/20/09	Hiking (10.0 Miles)	Camp Thunderbird	Night Hike
11/24/09	Troop Mtg		Wreath Delivery - Winter Camping (Inc. equip/gear)
December			
12/01/09	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
12/07/09	Cmte	Room 115	Committee Meeting
12/08/09	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Class #5
12/15/09	Serv Proj (2.0 Hours)		Caroling
12/19/09	Serv Proj (3.0 Hours)	Thurston. Cty. Food Bank	Sort Holiday Food Donations
January			
01/05/10	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
01/11/10	Cmte	Room 115	Committee Meeting
01/12/10	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Wrap-Up, Class #6

01/19/10	Troop Mtg		Winter Camping - Training
01/26/10	Troop Mtg		Court of Honor
February			
02/02/10	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
02/07/10	Event	GSLC	Scout Sunday
02/08/10	Troop Cmte	Room 115	Committee Meeting
02/09/10	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Class #1
02/13/10	Camping	White Pass	Snow/Winter Camping
02/16/10	Troop Mtg		Klondike Prep, Pioneering Skills
02/23/10	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Class #2
02/27/10	Event	Stampede Pass	Trollhaugen Snow-Fun Weekend

Please submit your stories, items of interest, and any other contributions for upcoming newsletters to the Newsletter Editor, Kerin Kirkmire, at kgkirkmire@msn.com.