

The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA

October - November 2007

924 7th Street., Port Huron MI 48060

1-810-982-9529

1-888-98SCOUT www.bwcbbsa.org

Editor: Judy McCarthy



From Our Scout Executive

Dear Scout volunteers,

October and November really represent the Scouting program in full swing. Cub Scouts have been recruited, Packs and Troops are once again meeting, and opportunities for Scouting FUN are rapidly approaching. Recent studies have revealed that 15% of our Scouts drop out of the program within the first 60 days. I wonder what could possibly happen to discourage a new Cub Scout or Boy Scout so much that they leave the program before they can really start to have fun.

Fun! I think that is the key word. If our newest Scouts don't do anything "fun" in the first sixty days, they quickly become discouraged and disappointed. They have very little invested, so it is easy to just walk away from Scouting. They will never know the ultimate fun they might have enjoyed; they will never know the life skills, the lessons in citizenship, or the life changing transformation of their character. They may not reach their full potential as adults, and they will probably not strive to involve their children in Scouting.

So what to do? First, make sure that every Scout has a fun Scouting experience within his first sixty days as a Scout. In this issue of the "Bridge", you will see information about Mom & Me, Cub Scare Night, Fall Camporee, and more. Every registered Scout should have a significant Scouting activity by the end of October, and especially for our newest Scouts.

Secondly, every leader that has front line contact with our Scouts should be trained. I have heard many of the reasons why a den leader, cubmaster, or scoutmaster cannot or will not take training. You can pile all those reasons together, and they will pale in importance when measured against the fact that B.S.A. **trained leaders** consistently deliver a better program to the Scouts. And that's what we should be all about. Delivering the best program to our precious children. Or to put it another way, trained leaders better enable us to deliver the promise we made to get those youth to join Scouting.

So let us make this our slogan this fall. "Deliver the Promise" to our Scouts; Trained leaders leading Scouts to their first significant Scouting experience within the first sixty days.

Good Scouting to you and yours,

Jeffrey L. Purdy
Scout Executive

Popcorn Sale Begins October 2, 2007

Leaders and Popcorn Kernels from 49 units in the Blue Water Council attended the Popcorn Kickoff held on September 6th. The crowd was treated to fun, door prizes, recognition, fresh popcorn and a demonstration from members of pack 333. For those units that have yet to get their material, please do so at the Scout Service Center. Here are some of the highlights:

October 2 - Sale begins

October 19 - Fast Start Drawing

November 16 - All Unit Orders Due at the SSC

November 30 - Popcorn Pickup (popcorn must be paid for when it is picked up!)

Among the incentives for Scouts are:

Fast Start Award: In the first 2 weeks of the sale, fill up at least one order page form and get a copy to the Scout Service Center by 10 AM Friday, October 19 and earn a chance for a drawing for a "Nintendo DS Lite." The more pages you fill, the more chances you earn! **You can fax your form to 810-982-3931.** Two Nintendo's will be given away!

Top Producer's Party: Sell at least \$600 in popcorn and earn an invitation to the YMCA for fun and activity. The event will take place, Saturday, January 12, 2008. In addition, those selling at least \$1,250 will earn a special t-shirt!

Top District Producer's Award: A PSP (Play Station Portable) will be awarded to the **TOP SELLER** in each district.

\$1,500 Program: Each Scout that sells \$1,500 during the Popcorn Sale will receive an Extra Prize from Trail's End. (Your choice of a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart, Coleman or BSA National Supply)

\$2,500 Scholarship Program: Scouts that sell \$2,500 during the 2007 Popcorn Sale are eligible for a Trail's End Scholarship.

Fill-It Up Patch & Certificate from Trail's End:

Fill up an order form and send a copy to:

Fill It Up Program, Trail's End, 9850 Westpoint Drive, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46256 and they will send you a Neat Patch and a Certificate.

Scouts Can Earn Prizes from Trail's End:

Scouts get to choose a prize depending on their sales level plus they may also choose a patch or a pin too.



2% Bonus Continues for 2007 Sale

Units can earn an extra 2% bonus on their popcorn commission by meeting these requirements.

1. A representative attends the Popcorn Kickoff
2. Develop and turn in a Unit Calendar by October 5, 2007
3. Develop and turn in a Unit Budget by October 5, 2007
4. Communicate your Unit Calendar and Budget to parents at your Roundup

ub Scout News

GET READY FOR THE HIGHLAND GAMES TO BEGIN!

Circle these dates on your calendar now; **October 12-13 or October 13-14 for Mom & Me.** This is an overnight campout for Cub Scouts and moms. After checking in and setting up your tents there will be a campfire program the first night. The following day will be filled with activities held throughout the camp such as archery, BB gun shooting, leatherworking, tin working and a host of other activities. In the afternoon there will be a "Gathering" on the main event field. Scouts will participate in modified Highland Games. **The Grand Finale is not to be missed!**



Session #1 Friday, October 12 to Saturday, October 13

(Gates open 5 pm Friday, session ends Saturday 2:30 pm)

Session #2 Saturday, October 13 to Sunday, October 14

(Gates open 5 pm Saturday, session ends Sunday 2:30 pm)

Place: Silver Trails Scout Reservation

Cost: \$15.00 per participant for early registration by Sept. 28 (\$17.50 per participant after September 28)

includes breakfast, lunch, cracker barrel and all activities

T-Shirts: \$8.00 to \$10.00 depending on size

Deadline for T-shirts, September 28, 2007

FINAL DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATON IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007.

For additional information call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529, form available on website at bwcbsa.org.

Dad & Lad T-Shirts at Scout Service Center

We have a box of t-shirts from Dad & Lad in May that were ordered and paid for but not picked up during the event. Check with the Service Center if you forgot to pick up your shirt. We have each shirt tagged with pack number and names ready for pick up.

Cub Scout Roundtables

On Wednesday, October 3, 2007 the Cub Scout Roundtable will be held at the Port Huron Township Department of Public Works building at 4134 West Water Street beginning at 7 pm. Both districts will meet to share ideas and entertainment.



November will bring a different "twist" as the Boy Scout and Cub Scout Roundtables will BOTH be held on the same date, Wednesday, November 7 at the Girl Scout Center at 2186 Water Street beginning at 7 pm. All the attendees will meet for communication with the Council Staff and then split off into their respective Roundtables. This is a great opportunity to send a representative from your unit to gather new ideas and exchange communication. We will use the same format for the December 5, 2007 meeting.

Cub Scare Night

Saturday

October 27, 2007

At Silver Trails



Looking for a fun fall activity for your pack? We have just what you are looking for. Saturday, October 27, at Silver Trails Scout Reservation will be the place for the Annual Cub Scare Night. This Halloween activity will feature a hayride, games, and good food. Cub Scare Night is open to Cub Scouts, leaders, as well as family members. So bring mom, dad, sister, brother and grandparents and join in on the fun. (Wrist-bands will be given out at event check-in. Everyone must have a wrist-band to participate.)

Please mail or bring your reservation to the Scout Service Center as soon as possible so the enough supplies can be purchased.

Cost: \$4.00 per person for registration by October 19, 2007

\$5.00 per person for registration after October 19, 2007

Time: 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm (activities will be on going)

The camp will be busy with activity, so plan to arrive early. Check-in begins at 5 pm. The events are on-going from 5 pm until 9 pm.

We are looking for a few brave volunteers to help. Please contact John Houser at 810-982-9529 or at jhouser@bsamail.org for more information.

Please remember no costumes.

Sight Night -

A Spooktacular Service Project

This October trick-or-treat for a cause. Sight Night is a unique twist to used eyeglasses collection organized around trick-or-treat in your community. This is a great service opportunity for Scouts to participate in! Sight Night is a nationwide eyeglass collection effort and part of *Give the Gift of Sight*, a family of charitable vision care programs sponsored by Give the Gift of Sight Foundation and Lions Clubs International. How can you help? Volunteer "ghouls and boys" are needed to "scare up" used eyeglasses. Used eyeglasses collected on Sight Night will be cleaned, repaired, classified and delivered to people in need in developing countries. For more information call 1-877-605-4242 or visit www.sightnight.org.



Boy Scout News



Are You Ready for Polar Bear Camping?

Old man winter is making his way to Michigan which means it is time to be thinking about Polar Bear. Beginning December 1, Scouts can qualify to participate in the Polar Bear Program. Before any Scout can participate in this activity, he must have knowledge in the following areas:



- The types of clothing, boots, bedding, and camp equipment used for winter camping.
- Cleanliness in camping and campsite care.
- Proper practice in the care of food and menu planning; types of fires to be used; proper methods of maintaining health and sanitation standards.

Polar Bear camping may be done on a troop or patrol basis. Two registered adult leaders must be present, with one leader being at least 21 years old. The requirements for the Polar Bear program include the following:

- Scouts must stay outdoors for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Camping and/or Tour Permits must be filed as needed.
- Scouts must sleep outdoors and may use plastic tarps or native materials where permitted, as well as tents.
- Three meals must be prepared and cooked outdoors. Menus should be prepared and purchased by Scouts and cooked individually by patrols.
- Practice the Outdoor Code. Make sure the campsite is left in better condition than it was found. No live timber to be cut.

The event will run from December 1, 2007 through March 21, 2008. When your unit has completed the program, complete the Polar Bear form and return to the Scout Service Center. The Polar Bear patch will be available at the center after December 1 at a cost of \$1.75.

Order of the Arrow News

Our Fall Conclave was a huge success with many new members being inducted into the Order. Additionally several camp service projects were completed by the OA membership, to spruce up our camp. Thank you to all who took part in helping to improve Silver Trails Scout Reservation.

Scoutmasters, you may schedule an OA troop election by calling the Scout Service Center and speaking to Cindy Gulyas, our OA staff adviser. Note: Only one troop election can be held per year. Give your Scouts a chance to gain membership in the Order of the Arrow.

The Order of the Arrow operates three great high-adventure programs—Philmont Scout Ranch, Northern Tier, and the Florida Sea Base. These programs are open to youth Arrowmen at a discounted rate, and additional camperships can be obtained through our lodge and the section, reducing the cost by up to 2/3. We hope that more youth members will take advantage of these programs offered to them. Applications are currently being accepted for 2008. For additional information check out high adventure at www:oa-bsa.org

Jamboree on the Air at Fall Camporee

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This year's Fall Camporee will help celebrate the occasion on Friday, October 19 through Sunday, October 21 at Silver Trails. The Boy Scouts have a unique opportunity to earn the Radio Merit Badge while also earning the special commemorative JOTA 2007, 50th Anniversary patch. A Scout can work on the Orienteering Merit Badge as an alternative.

With a theme, "Around the World in 50 hours," local HAMS (amateur radio operators) will give of their time and equipment to make it happen. JOTA will begin the golden jubilee October 19 at 9 pm and end on October 20 at midnight. Webelos may participate in the celebration, but cannot earn the Radio and Orienteering Merit Badges. The Webelos will have a separate program so Troops should consider reaching out to Webelos by inviting them to join in.

Plan to arrive at Silver Trails on the Friday, October 19 at 7 pm. (Sorry, Webelos cannot spend the night.) The fee is \$10 for Scouts (\$12 if paid after October 12), Webelos \$4 and adult leaders are free. The fee covers program, patch and campsite. Troops are responsible for their food.

See you there!!

Boy Scout Roundtable Dates

In conjunction with the Fall Camporee, the Boy Scout Roundtable for October will be held on the Friday, October 19 at Silver Trails beginning at 7 pm. The November 7 and December 5 Roundtables will be held at the Girl Scout Center at 2186 Water Street, beginning at 7 pm. We will be combining the Boy Scout and Cub Scout roundtables for the beginning of the meetings, then will split out into separate meetings.



We congratulate the following young men for earning their Eagle Scout rank.

Troop 101
Nick Wiczko

Troop 262
Michael Giacalone

Troop 245
Benjamin Holt

Troop 294
Troy Dietlin

Eagle Scout Award Kits are being sponsored by the Port Huron Kiwanis Club in memory of Clayton Berdan. Each Eagle Scout receives an award kit which includes the Eagle Scout patch, Eagle Scout medal, and parent pins. Thank you to the Kiwanis for this generous contribution.



ews for All...

Legacy Planning Seminar October 10, 2007

What do you see as your legacy to your children, your community and the world? How do you want to be remembered? Legacy Planning is not all about money. A lot of the planning involves making sure that whatever assets you do have are given to the people and organizations you want to have them. It's about leaving your mark the way you want to be remembered, on your own terms. Terms that are favorable to your spouse, your children, your church, your favorite youth service agency (The Boy Scouts of America), and others.

You're taxed when you earn money, taxed when you spend money and taxed on gains when you invest the money you have left over. And if you're not careful, you'll be taxed again when you depart this life!

If you would like to join a group of professional service providers who will discuss in a very relaxed and casual environment certain strategies that may benefit you, your family, and your community, please call Jeffrey L. Purdy at 810-982-9529 to register.

What: Legacy Planning Seminar

When: Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Where: Port Huron Golf Club
4101 Fairway Drive, Fort Gratiot

IRA and Retirement Plans

Retirement fund assets can be one of the most significant assets left in an estate. Studies show that 90 percent of the people at age 90 still have almost all of their original funding amount in the fund. During the optional withdrawal period for IRAs, only 10 to 20 percent of Americans make withdrawals, and during the mandatory withdrawal period (after age 70-1/2), 85 percent to 90 percent of Americans take only the minimum required distribution.

Unfortunately, the gift of an IRA to a child or grandchild - or anyone other than a spouse or charity—can be one of the costliest gifts of all. Retirement funds given to children or grandchildren can be double taxed, or worse. They're often hit by federal estate taxes, state death taxes, income tax, and generation—skipping taxes. Eighty percent of an IRA could be eaten up by taxes, leaving only 20 percent for your intended beneficiaries.

For many donors, the best tax wise way to deal with IRAs and other retirement assets estate plans is to name either a spouse or a charity (or both) as survivor beneficiary. Naming your local council as an alternate or contingent beneficiary of your retirement accounts is as simple as requesting a change of beneficiary form from your plan administrator. IRAs and other retirement accounts may also be used to fund a charitable trust created in your will.

The flexibility and revocability of IRA designations and the potential tax savings from such charitable gifts may be a great way to meet your philanthropic objectives. Talk with your own adviser about these options.

Tax-Exempt Status of Units & Contributions to Units

The basic issues regarding the tax-exempt status of Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout troops, Exploring/Venturing units, and even Tiger Cub groups or Cub Scout dens are addressed in the charter process employed by the Boy Scouts of America. This is a brief overview of those issues.

Upon the recommendation of a local council - based on specific requirements and guidelines —an organization or group wanting to sponsor a Scout unit is granted a charter to do so from the BSA National Council. These organizations vary from schools, religious organizations, civic clubs, neighborhood groups, business, industry, and others - each with a potentially different tax status.

Some organizations are tax-exempt under IRS Code section 501 (c)(3), while others are not tax-exempt. The tax-exempt status of the chartered organization determines the tax-exempt status of their units - pack, troop, crew, etc.

All BSA local councils and local council trust funds that conform to specific BSA and IRS requirements are covered under a group exemption granted from the IRS. This provides them their tax exempt status. Each year, the list of entities included in this group exemption is reviewed and updated by the BSA National Council. **INDIVIDUAL SCOUT UNITS ARE NOT, AND MAY NOT BE, COVERED BY THIS GROUP EXEMPTION.**

Chartered organizations entitled to tax-exempt status are responsible for maintaining their own tax status. Thus, if a Scout pack, troop or unit is tax exempt, it is only because its sponsoring organization is itself tax exempt.

If an organization is ineligible to receive a grant or donation, any Scout units it sponsors will be similarly ineligible to receive it. Also, since there is no tax relationship between local councils and Scout units, such gift and grants may not "flow through" the local council to be given to the Scout unit.

Silver Antelope Award for 2008

The Boy Scouts of America, acting through the National Court of Honor, may award the Silver Antelope for distinguished service to youth of our region by registered Scouters. You are invited to recommend an individual who you believe meets the intent and requirement of this recognition.

Recommend an individual of exceptional character for noteworthy service who is over 21 years of age and is registered as a volunteer Scouter residing in the jurisdiction of this region. Leadership and service in the area and regional activities are the primary considerations for this distinguished award. (Local council service is recognized with the Silver Beaver.)

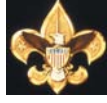
Deadline for recommendation is December 1, 2008. The form is available at the Scout Service Center.

Attention Merit Badge Counselors

The registration for merit badge counselors for Blue Water Council goes from December thru November. Everyone who is currently registered as a merit badge counselor will be sent a letter (listing the merit badges they are currently registered for) asking if they want to continue as a merit badge counselor for the next year. If you want to continue, do nothing, if you want to change something, contact Judy at the Scout Service Center at 982-9529.



Memorials



Francis Fuller
Silver Beavers

John R. Roshak
Donald & Jeanette Goddard

Bill Metzger
Kirk & Janette Seibert

Kristine Mosher
Tim & Judy Meno

Keith Peterson
David & Ruth Thompson

Adult Leader Award Recipients

New Unit Organizer

Mary Minnis

The Young American Award

This council-level award is given to young adults between the ages of 15 and 25 to highlight publicly the importance of their excellent achievements and service to their community, state and nation. Local council winners are sent into the National Office for a chance to win the National Young American Award which includes \$7500 in cash. (Deadline to apply at local level is December 1, 2007; deadline for National-level award is January 2, 2008) For more information and an online application, check out www.learningforlife.org/exploring/scholarships

100th Anniversary Logo Contest

The Boy Scouts of America's 100th Anniversary represents much more than a date on the calendar. It represents an important milestone around which to reintroduce Scouting to America — to celebrate our rich heritage and to reinforce the important role Scouting will continue to play in shaping our country's future.

Therefore, in honor of our 100th Anniversary, we want to create a memorable logo that captures the true spirit of Scouting and, we are calling on Scouts and Scouters all across the country to help us in the effort.

The goal of our National 100th Anniversary logo contest is to inspire creative thinking and engage Scouts at every level. Every registered Scout is eligible. Entries are due by November 30, 2007. Winners will be chosen in several categories. The overall winner will work with nationally recognized graphic artist and Eagle Scout, Kit Hinrichs, to format the design for wide use throughout our celebration. For complete rules and more information go to www.scouting.org/100years.

Please Help!

Has your son outgrown his Cub Scout shirt? We would like you to donate your gently used Cub Scout or Webelos shirts to the Boy Scout Service Center. Please remove all patches except the American flag, Blue Water Council strip and World Crest. We will accept any size shirt, as long as it is neat and clean. We have many Scouts that will appreciate your generosity. Thank you!

Scout Shop News.....

Here we are at fall camping time again! Are you prepared? As always, the Scout Shop has many different camping items and whatever we don't carry, we can special order for you at no extra charge.

Calling all Cub Scouts! We have the coolest pants in just for you! The new Switchback Pants for Cub Scouts are available in the Scout Shop. They are pants and shorts all in one! And the best part for parents is the price, only \$24.99! These are heavy duty just for boys and well worth the price.

We have two specials for Cub Scouts in September and October.

Special #1- Purchase a shirt, cap, neckerchief, and slide and get the council strip, World Crest and unit numbers free!

Special #2- Purchase a shirt, pants, cap, belt, neckerchief, slide, socks, unit numbers, den number, World Crest, and receive a Cub Scout Badge Magic kit free!

The Scout Shop is open Monday –Friday, 9-5 and in September and October on Saturdays from 10-1pm. Come see us soon.

Have a Great Scouting Day!

Cyndi

Commissioner Corner

Fall is here and things are moving fast and furiously.

Congrats to Cyndi Jagodzinski for representing our council at the Commissioner College. She will be sharing the latest with us.

Scouters if you need to reach your unit commissioner and don't know who it is, contact the Scout Service Center and they can give you the name and phone number of your commissioner. Also commissioners will be contacting you soon to go over the Centennial Award requirements.



Unit Commissioner - Stress to your units the need for all adults to be youth protection trained at least every two years. The Districts are fine tuning a draft of how best to track this task, so we remain in tune with National guidelines. Also, in November/December, Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtables will meet the same night, same place (Girl Scout Center at Water & 194). Note: this is a change of location from what is listed in the council calendar. This is a great opportunity for you to bring your Pack & Troop staff on one night and promote unit to unit interaction.

Special Thanks to Commissioners Linda Green, Mary Minnis, Dennis Young and Cyndi Jagodzinski who worked hard to make roundups a success.

Calling all Commissioners. At the October meetings, we will roll out the new National software you can use for unit reports and other uses. Don't miss this latest tool for your use. Thanks for all you do.

Les LaBroski

Jerry Deeg

Pete Cangemi

Thank You For Your Help

Thank you to Denise, Ryan and Tristian Orlick for all your help with the mailings and to Leslie Butler, Leslie Herman and Dave Lesinski for their help with flyers, mailings and getting packets together.

Scouting for Food National Good Turn Project

As the Christmas Season draws near it is important for all Scouts and Scouters to realize that there are those in our community less fortunate than ourselves. The Scout Law states that a Scout is helpful and needs to show this in his life as a Scout. This year, as in years past, the Salvation Army and the Blue Water Council will team up for our Scouting Good Turn. We will kick-off the Salvation Army Scouting for Food on **Monday, November 12** (Note: this is a change of date from the calendar) with the kickoff dinner. The kickoff dinner will be held starting at 6:30 PM at the Salvation Army Citadel located on Court Street in Port Huron. For all units participating, this is an opportunity to meet with other units as well as to hear from the Salvation Army on just how much your contribution means to people in need in our area. We would also like to look at how we can expand our service areas so that no area in our community is left out. Food bags will be distributed to the participating units at that time. Food bags will be passed out in the community on Saturday, December 1 and will be picked up on Saturday, December 8. The drop off point has not yet been announced, but will be available by the kickoff dinner. We are requesting that each unit planning to participate send one or two representatives to the kickoff dinner. If your unit plans to participate please contact Cindy Gulyas at the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529 or 1-888-98-Scout or by email at cgulyas@bsamail.org. We need to let the Salvation Army know how many will be attending the dinner. Please let us know by November 8.



If we all work together we can make sure that no family in our community will go without this Christmas.

Venturing Wilderness Survival Weekend

Friday, October 5 thru Sunday, October 7, 2007

Check-In on Friday from 7-8pm Check-out Sunday morning
Silver Trails Scout Reservation

\$8 per person

Participants will be working on the requirements for wilderness survival, please review requirements with your crew before this weekend. Your crew will be earning First Aid Certification at this event.



If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mary Minnis 810-387-9605 or Cindy Gulyas 810-982-9529.

Scout Night at the Palace with Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus Friday, November 16, 2007 at 7:30 pm

Get your family or pack together and come to the circus. The Palace is offering special discounted tickets for Scouts. Tickets are \$8.50—\$17.00. All Scouts receive a special Scout patch. For more information or to place your order call Michelle Van Zweden at 248-377-8638.



New Cub Scout Leader Training Schedule

Training for all Cub Scout leaders is available this fall! This training is specially designed to be completed in three



hours and will give all Cub Scout Leaders the specifics on how to build a great Cub Scout program at all levels. Cost is \$5 and will include all training materials and a light meal. You must register by contacting the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529. A training flyer is available on our website bwcbasa.org

October 6th - (Saturday) at Silver Trails Scout Reservation
9 am - noon - Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Den Leader
Noon - 3 pm - Cubmaster, Committee, and Webelos

October 18th - (Thursday) Time 6 pm - 9 pm - All trainings
First United Methodist Church, 828 Lapeer Rd. Port Huron

October 30th - (Tuesday) Time 6 pm - 9 pm—All trainings
First United Methodist Church, 828 Lapeer Rd. Port Huron

November 3rd - (Saturday) at Silver Trails
9 am - noon - Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Den Leader
Noon - 3 pm - Cubmaster, Committee, and Webelos

November 8th - (Thursday) Time 6 pm - 9 pm - All trainings
First United Methodist Church, 828 Lapeer Rd. PH

What is Troop Committee Challenge?

This training is specially designed for Troop Committee's and Troop Scoutmasters. It is an interactive training that works through troop operations. It is recommended that Troop Committees and Scoutmasters attend this training. Troop Committee Challenge Training will be held on Saturday, November 17 from 9am-noon at the Scout Service Center. Cost will be \$5 to cover supplies and refreshments. Please reserve your Troop's spot by contacting the Scout Service Center. If you have any additional questions please contact Cindy Gulyas at cgulyas@bsamail.org or 810-982-9529.

Boy Scout Leader Training in November

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster training and Outdoor Leader Skills will be held at Silver Trails **November 2-4, 2007**. (Friday thru Sunday) Leaders will take both trainings over the weekend and receive their trained patch. Cost is \$30 and covers all meals and materials. Please visit the council website at www.bwcbasa.org for a registration flier and more information, or call Cindy Gulyas at 810-982-9529.

Blue Water Council Offers Den Chief Training

Did you know the best way to encourage boys to join your troop is to have an active den chief involved with their den?

Den Chief Training

Saturday, October 6, 2007

9:00AM-1:00PM

At Silver Trails Scout Reservation

7140 Jeddo Road, Jeddo, MI

Cost \$10 per participant

This training is for all Scouts who desire to become a Den Chief for a local Cub Scout Den. We can help match Den Chiefs up with Cub Scout dens, please contact Cindy Gulyas at 810-982-9529 or cgulyas@bsamail.org for more information or if you have any questions.

From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



Here it is Fall again! Where did the Summer go? The trees are already surrendering themselves to the change of seasons. Everywhere you look in the woods the colors are beginning to show themselves. It is truly a magical time of year; a time to reflect on the Summer now past.

For the Mackinaw Island Service Troop, an Honor Troop of more than 25 years, there was a major change. Scoutmaster Jim Boettcher stepped down from that position. Jim has managed virtually all of the technical aspects of the Troop, both as Assistant Scoutmaster under Ralph Bowers, and as Scoutmaster, since Ralph's passing. Jim brought a military edge to the marching, the formations, and the flag ceremonies.

As a Viet Nam Veteran, Jim has a special regard for the American Flag. The "Red, White, and Blue" means so much to him. Many years ago, he instituted a tradition of conducting a flag retirement ceremony, after the campfire, on Mackinaw Island. The Troop now annually retires hundreds of flags, big and small, every year.

Visiting family members, Scouts, and Scouters alike have all shed tears at the flag retirements. Jim has a special way of reminding those in attendance of the blood shed to defend the flag and our freedom. The reality of lives lost, that others may enjoy a free America really hits home during those ceremonies. This has been Jim's greatest gift to the Troop.

Beyond the obvious duties of a Scoutmaster, Jim has also managed to prepare the application packages, arrange meeting places, set up overnight training sessions, and a dozen other things that make the Troop work. When the Cook needed extra pancake flour for the pancake breakfast, Jim would arrive with it in hand. When a Scout needed a neckerchief slide, a pen, or a hat, Jim would pull one out of his seemingly "magic attaché case"!

He has settled arguments, handled difficult disciplinary issues, and helped homesick boys find a way past their distress. He has never walked away from the difficult issues, rather helped the Troop face them and work through them. Jim has been an example to the Scouts and Scouters alike; one we are proud of.

During the Blackout on Mackinaw Island, when the entire island was dark for a week, Jim was a crucial element to the Troop's success. When the Troop turned down an offer from the State to leave the island, Jim jumped into action with the SPL and ASPLs to formulate plans for accomplishing tasks required of us, in spite of the power outage.

Passers by the barracks were amazed at our organization and creativity. One comment I'll never forget was made by a tourist staying at the Grand Hotel. When he saw our activities continuing, our food cooking, and Scouts having a great time, he said, "I'm paying \$400 a night at the Grand, and I don't have it this good!" The Scouts did it, but Jim's guiding hand enabled them.

Jim acknowledges that change is good. In his words, "New chapters will open for the Mackinaw Troop". Those new chapters will rest on a solid foundation, placed by Jim and the other dedicated folks that have donated their time throughout the Troop's history. Our hats are off to Jim, with our most heartfelt thanks for a "Job Well Done." We can only hope to continue the tradition with as much dedication as Jim and the others who came before.

Looking at the trees, as they light up with Fall colors, change truly is in the air. They serve as a constant reminder of the inevitability of change. They emphasize the reality that "things" come to an end, and that there are "new beginnings". As the trees grow bare for Winter, they become the precursor to the new growth in the Spring. Sad as it is to see a season pass, we are anxious for the new seasons and all that they will bring.

When your Troop faces change, embrace it. Pause to reflect on the success that you have enjoyed. Consider the possibilities for the future. Dream, uninhibited and untethered by the past.

It is in this spirit that the Mackinaw Island Service Troop #168 says,

"Thanks Jim, we appreciate all that you have done."

Steve Down 9/07

Scout Night with the Detroit Pistons

Sunday, December 16, 2007

Detroit Pistons vs Golden State at 12:30 pm

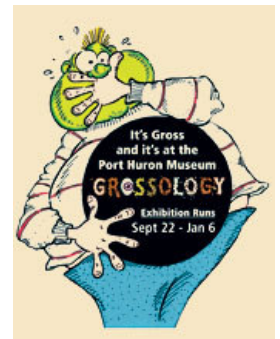
Scout night features:

- Post game clinic for Scouts
- Every Scout in attendance will receive a Pistons hat.
- \$8.00 off regular price of Piston ticket
- Scouts receive a special patch, attend two games and the patches join to form a Piston basketball
- Tickets are \$32.00 each. Reservation forms are available at the Scout Service Center.
- Second Game is Friday, April 11, 2008 at 8 pm Pistons vs. Washington Wizards.
- Contact Tamera Mires at 248-377-0175.



Grossology Comes to Port Huron

What is Grossology? It is the Impolite Science of the Human Body. Check out the New Exhibit at the Port Huron Museum. It's a science lesson for both kids and adults in a fun and disgusting way. Plan to take your Scouts on a field trip to the Port Huron Museum to see, touch and smell this exhibit. The exhibit runs through January 6, 2008. For more information, times and costs, check out their website at www.phmuseum.org or call 810-982-0891.



October

- 2 **Popcorn Sale Begins**
- 3 Cub Scout Roundtable - 7 pm Port Huron Twp. DPW
- 5-7 Venturing Out Campout - STSR
- 6 Den Chief Training - 9 am Silver Trails
- 6 Cub Scout Leader Training - 9 am STSR
- 8 Executive Committee Meeting - 6 pm SSC
- 10 Commissioner's Meeting - 7 pm
- 12-14 Mom & Me - STSR
- 17 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 18 Cub Scout Leader Training - 6 pm United Methodist
- 17 Boy Scout Roundtable - 7pm STSR
- 19-21 Fall Camporee - STSR
- 27 Cub Scout Scare Night - 5 - 9 pm STSR
- 30 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 30 Cub Scout Leader Training - 6 pm United Methodist

December

- 1 Polar Bear Begins
- 1 Salvation Army Bag Distribution
- 5 Cub Scout & Boy Scout Roundtable - 7 pm
- 8 Salvation Army Bag Pickup
- 8 OA Leadership Meeting -
- 10 Executive Committee Meeting - 6 pm SSC
- 12 Commissioner Meetings - 7 pm
- 18 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 19 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 24-25 **Christmas Eve & Christmas —SSC Closed**
- 28 **SSC Closed for Inventory**
- 31 **New Year's Eve - SSC Closed**

November

- 2-4 Scoutmaster & Asst. SM/Outdoor Training - STSR
- 3 Cub Scout Leader Training - 9 am STSR
- 7 Cub Scout & Boy Scout Roundtable - 7 pm
- 8 Cub Scout Leader Training - 7 pm
- 10 OA Membership Meeting
- 12 Executive Board Meeting
- 12 Salvation Army Scouting for Food Kickoff - 6:30 pm
- 14 Commissioners Meeting - 7 pm
- 15-30 **Deer Season—STSR Closed**
- 16 **Popcorn Orders Due at SSC from Units**
- 17 Troop Committee Challenge - SSC
- 22-23 **Thanksgiving - SSC Closed**
- 26 Properties Committee Meeting - 7 pm
- 27 Eagle Board of Review—7 pm Westminster Church
- 28 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 30 **Popcorn Distribution to Units**

Sandusky Office Hours - Phone: 810-583-0303

Beginning Thursday, October 4 from 1-4 pm Cindy Gulyas will be at the Kids Connection in Sandusky. Cindy will be more than happy to bring up any supplies from the Council office your unit or you need, but you need to call the Scout Service Center to make arrangements for these items. Please also remember that Cindy may have other appointments in Sandusky that may take her out of the office during this time. So please arrange a time with Cindy to pick up your items! Office hours will continue every Thursday from 1-4 pm until December 13 and will resume January 10, 2008.

Scout Service Center Staff 810-982-9529

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Council Commissioner

Peter Cangemi 810-327-2327

Black River Basin District

James Kemp—District Chairman 810-984-4891

Jerry Deeg—District Commissioner 810-385-9735

Steve McPherson—BS Rdtble Com. 810-966-2246

3-Rivers District

Dan Steinmetz—District Chairman 810-765-9765

Les LaBroski—District Commissioner 810-966-5040

Bobbie Jo Rogers -CS Rdtble Com 810-434-7709



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