

The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA

August-September 2010

924 7th Street, Port Huron MI 48060

1-810-982-9529

1-888-98SCOUT www.bwcbasa.org

Editor: Judy McCarthy



From Our Scout Executive

As we go through our lives, we are reminded why we are here and why we do the work we do. Luckily for me, it happens often as I see Scouts and Scouters have experiences that they would never have had if it wasn't for the Boy Scouts of America.

Last night was one of those times. I was there to send my son and thirty nine others off to the National Jamboree. It was fun to observe the boys and their parents as they were off on an adventure that is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. Only these Scouts will get to experience the 100th Anniversary National Jamboree.

Looking around the parking lot you could see a full array of emotions, excitement, nervousness, happiness, fear, sadness and relief... and that was just the parents.

These 40 Scouters from the Blue Water Council will be touring Washington DC, Gettysburg, the National Marine Museum and the Harley Davidson plant prior to attending the National Jamboree.

While at the Jamboree, the Scouts will have opportunities to do everything a Scout can imagine. Everything from boating to climbing towers, from fishing to science experiments from seeing President Obama speak to a light and laser show. They will have to opportunity to earn any merit badge the Boy Scouts of America offer, and of course, time to trade patches from other Scouts from around the world.

These thirty six Scouts will have an experience that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. Most won't realize the magnitude of this event until they are about thirty years old, but they will, at some point in their lives, be telling others "I was at the 100th Anniversary National Jamboree and I....."

I would like everyone to sit back and reflect on the opportunities Scouting has provided you and your son or daughter, then take a moment to remember why we do what we do.

Thank you for your commitment to Scouting.

Paul W. Schwartz



Program Kickoff Date Changed to August 25

It's that time of year again for each unit to begin planning for the next Scouting season. Funding, coordinating and planning your unit's events and recruiting new Scouts are important. To facilitate your efforts, the Blue Water Council is once again hosting the **Annual Program Kickoff** which will take place on Wednesday, August 25, 2010 beginning at 6 pm.

Important information to help you run an effective program will be shared at this event. As a result, your unit Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Advisor, Committee Chairman and Committee Members should plan on attending. Check the Blue Water Council Webpage at www.bwcbasa.org for any updates.

What: 2010 Program Kickoff

When: Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Time: 6 pm-6:30 pm A light dinner (donations accepted)
6:30 pm-8:30 pm Council program

Where: First United Methodist Church, 828 Lapeer, Port Huron

What to bring: Your unit representatives

The date for your Family Friends of Scouting Presentation

The name of your Popcorn Kernel

A tentative date for your unit's fall open house or roundup

The email address and phone number of your unit leaders

Please RSVP to the Scout Service Center 810-982-9529 by Friday, August 20, 2010 with the names of those who will be representing your unit.

Mark Your Calendars....See you Wednesday, August 25, 2010!

Let Popcorn Fund Your Scouting Adventures!

Get ready for the annual Blue Water Council Popcorn Sale by attending Popcorn Kickoff on September 2, 2010 at the First United Methodist Church in Port Huron.

Participating in the popcorn sale is a win-win situation for all. For Scouts it teaches them valuable life lessons in goal setting, salesmanship and self-confidence. For parents it has the potential to fund an entire year of Scouting adventures! Imagine your Scouts participating in a program packed full of exciting activities and not having the parents pay for any of it...we will explain how!

It's time for your Unit to plan for a successful sale in 2010. Attending Popcorn Kickoff will provide your unit with the tools for a quality program to keep your Scouts motivated and interested. EACH UNIT must have a representative at this meeting and Unit Kernels must be in attendance. Here you will find a wealth of information to help you have a successful sale.

What: 2010 Popcorn Kickoff

When: Thursday, September 2 at 6:30 pm

Where: First United Methodist Church
828 Lapeer, Port Huron

Please RSVP to the Scout Service Center 810-985-9529 by Friday, August 27, 2010 with names and number of individuals that will be attending from your unit.





Cub Scout News

The New Cub Scout Program

Starting this fall, the Cub Scout program will change. Why? How does making it more lasting, more successful and more fun sound? After five years of development, research, and testing, the new Cub Scout guidelines are ready for a national rollout. The new program organizes Cub Scout handbook guidelines into lesson plans focusing on logically linked topics. These fall into a 16-meeting timeline that allows Cub Scouts to work together on rank achievements during meetings. The sixteen meeting plans are laid out for den leaders in the new **“Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide”** (#34409). The guide also offers pack meeting outlines. With the release of this guide, **“Scouting”** magazine will no longer publish the Program Helps insert. Monthly themes are replaced by a monthly focus on the 12 core values of Cub Scouting: Cooperation, Responsibility, Citizenship, Respect, Positive Attitude, Resourcefulness, Compassion, Faith, Health & Fitness, Perseverance, Courage, Honesty. To view the new program go to: scouting.org/cubscouts.

Why change? Results show both children and adults are happier using the new curriculum. Pilot tests found the percentage of children who remained in Cub Scouts under the new guidelines grew by 20 percent compared to dens that did not use the new materials. Nationwide that’s 350,000 more Cub Scouts sticking with the program!!

Cub Scare Night Coming in October

Mark your calendar for a Fall favorite, **CUB SCARE!** This year Silver Trails will be a host to a spooky hayride through the forest, games, and great food. Saturday, October 23, 2010 will mark the occasion.

This event is open to all registered Cub Scouts, leaders and family members. So bring mom, dad, sister, brother and relatives to join in on the fun. Youth may dress in costumes and candy will be provided to participants. Wristbands will be given out at check-in and are required for participation. Please register early so supplies and food can be accurately ordered.



Early registration now until Friday, October 15, 2010 is \$5 per person. Registration after October 15, 2010 will be \$6 per person.

Registration forms are available at the Scout Service Center or online at www.bwebsa.org. Contact Korissa Kramer at korissa.kramer@scouting.org or 810-982-9529 for further information.



Blue Water Council Scout Service Center Offers Cub Scout Uniform Special for September & October

A uniform makes a boy feel like he’s part of a group. To help offset the cost of a Cub Scout uniform, we are offering the following incentive. If you purchase the Scout shirt, hat, neckerchief and slide at the same time (during September & October), the Scout Shop will give you the basic insignia (council strip, unit numbers and world crest) **FREE**. (An \$8.60 value)



Cub Scout Uniform Prices

Description	Price
Blue Cub Scout Short Sleeve Shirt	\$22.99
Blue Cub Scout Long Sleeve Shirt	\$26.99
Blue Cub Scout Switchback Pants	\$24.99
Blue Cub Scout Web Belt	\$7.99 to \$8.99
Neckerchief - Tiger, Wolf, Bear	\$5.99
Neckerchief - Webelos	\$9.99
Neckerchief Slide	\$3.99
Cub Scout Hats - Tiger, Wolf, Bear or Webelos	\$12.99
Tan Youth Short Sleeve Shirt, cotton/poly	\$24.99

It’s Medieval Time for Mom & Me

Whip out your sword oh valiant knight! Save the pretty maiden from an awful fright! Come to the land of the Silver Trails and make great memories for all who prevail! The Medieval Times are upon us, come one, come all, but only the bravest!



Mark your calendars for Mom & Me Medieval Times:

When: October 8-9 or 9-10

Where: Silver Trails Scout Reservation

Let’s celebrate 100 years of fun with some jousting, blacksmithing and fighting the medieval beast to be King of the Castle! Flyers will be mailed to every Cub Scout with all the details for a festive good time.



Contact Cyndi Jagodzinski if you want to staff this great event at 810-982-9529 or cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org.

Cub Scout Roundtables For Leaders Starts Up

Attention all unit leaders! Come join us September 8, 2010 for the first meeting of the Fall at 7 pm at the Scout Service Center. Remember the Scout Shop will be open until 7 pm that evening if you want to pick up supplies before the meeting.



Boy Scout News

Order of the Arrow News Chickagami Lodge 180

Our Fall Fellowship will be August 27-29 at Lakeport State Park. The activities at the event will include training, ultimate frisbee, swimming and a show. The Fall Fellowship is a great time to have fun and meet other Arrowmen in the lodge. If you have any questions about the Fall Fellowship or the Order of the Arrow you can contact me at 1-810-985-5922 or email me at allen.matt.12@gmail.com
WWW, Matthew Allen, Lodge Chief



Boy Scouts Be Prepared!

“Be Prepared” is on for this year’s Fall Camporee. We have a very informative and well planned event where Boy Scouts will do the Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge and Webelos will do the Readyman Badge. Don’t miss the mock disaster! You are the victims we need to make it happen! Flyers will be emailed to all unit leaders very soon.



- What:** Fall Camporee “Be Prepared”
- When:** October 15-17, 2010
- Where:** Silver Trails Scout Reservation
- Cost:** \$10.00 per person

Check in will be Friday, October 15, 2010 from 6 pm to 8 pm and activities will end at noon on Sunday, October 17.

A flyer will be available in the Scout Service Center and on the council web page www.bwcbasa.org soon.

Visit the Great Lakes Naval Memorial & Museum

Climb aboard and immerse your Scouts in the history of a genuine WWII Submarine and 1927 Coast Guard Cutter located in Muskegon. The museum offers overnight specials this summer for Scouts. (Mention code BSA2010) For more information or to book a trip call 231-755-1230 or email Denise at dherzhaft@glnmm.org. Check out the website at www.GLNMM.org.

New Boy Scout Merit Badge

The newest Boy Scout Merit Badge introduced this year is inventing. Inventing involves finding technological solutions to real-world problems. Inventors understand the importance of inventing to society because they creatively think of ways to improve the lives of others. Explore the world of inventing through this new merit badge and discover your inner inventiveness.



Indian Lore Campmaster

September 17-19, 2010

September is when the Cherokee celebrated the Ripe Corn Festival and offered thanks for the harvest. September is also the time for the Indian Lore Merit Badge weekend at Silver Trails Scout Reservation.



Lee “Spotted Pony” and Anne “Night Wind” Billingsley will again be your hosts for a weekend of teaching, discussion, language and crafts, games, archery and drum sessions. Adults are welcome and encouraged to participate with the Scouts provided they are registered and pay the \$12.00 fee. What a great way to experience Native American culture!

- What:** Indian Lore Campmaster
- When:** Friday, September 17 beginning at 6 pm until 1:00 pm Sunday, September 19
- Where:** Silver Trails Scout Reservation
- Cost:** \$12.00 each participant

Register by Friday, September 10, 2010 at the Scout Service Center. Registration flyer will be on our website: www.bwcbasa.org

Boy Scout Roundtable for September & October

The September Boy Scout Roundtable will be Friday, September 17 during Indian Lore Campmaster. The October Round Table will be Friday, October 15 during Fall Camporee.

53rd Jamboree on the Air

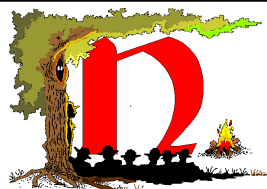
This year’s Jamboree-On-the-Air (JOTA) will run from October 16-17, 2010 for a 48 hour period. JOTA is an annual Scouting and amateur radio event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Thousands of amateur radio stations around the world participate. For more information search [The 53rd JOTA 2010](http://The53rdJOTA2010) and check out their website.



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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Troop 245
Steven Horton | Troop 294
Stephan Bieszka
Danial Colombo |
| Troop 250
Robert Roznowski | Troop 331
Thomas Kreiner |
| Troop 282
Jeremy Lotte | Troop 333
Nehemiah McConnachie |

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.



News for All

Silver Trails Archery Shoots Coming Up

One of our best-loved and most fun-filled fundraisers is the Silver Trails Archery Shoot that is sponsored and staffed by the Silver Trails Archery Committee. Three archery shoots occur during the year and have developed into some of the best in the State of Michigan. These shoots are open to the public, both adult and youth, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. These are well-attended events that require a substantial amount of work by many dedicated volunteers. Dates for the next shoots are as follows.

Shoot #2 August 7 & 8, 2010

Shoot #3 September 11 & 12, 2010

The above dates represent weekends with the following times for each day. **Saturday 8 am to 5 pm**

Sunday 8 am to 3 pm

Each Saturday there will be medals awarded to all shooters. Sunday 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place trophies will be given out. **There will be an all-you-can-eat "Hunter's Breakfast" available each day for \$5.00 per person.** Two different courses use 3D targets. Cost per course:

Adults (13 and over)	\$8.00
Youth	\$5.00
Children (8 and under)	\$2.00

For additional information call:

Diane Hazzard @ 810-304-0823

Register at Silver Trails on the day of the event.



Sporting Clays Shoot Fundraiser

Eastern Michigan Bank and the Blue Water Council are pleased to host the Fourth Annual Sporting Clays Shoot. Mark your calendar and be sure to sign up soon!

When: Sunday, August 29, 2010

Where: Four Square Conservation Club
6779 Cline Road, Jeddo

Shooters Fee: \$100 which includes 75 rounds of sporting clays (shells included), dinner and beverages.

There will be a live auction, door prizes and silent auction prior to and during dinner.

The event is looking for sponsors as well as teams. Contact the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529 for more details. A brochure can be found on our website: www.bwcbasa.org.

Philmont Scout Ranch 2011 High Adventure Backpacking Expedition

Explore the high country in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico! Experience the thrill of climbing mountains over two miles high! Participate in activities such as archaeology, backpacking, camping, rock climbing, fishing, logging, mining, Indian Lore, conservation, forestry and so much more!

The cost of the expedition is \$1425 which covers Philmont fees, travel to and from the Scout Ranch, trainings and materials, and food. There will be fundraisers available to help cover the cost of the trip. The registration form and more information is available on our website: www.bwcbasa.org or contact Terry Green at 810-385-7669. There are still openings.



Leader Training for the Fall

Leader training for all Boy Scout Leaders will be offered on November 5-7, 2010 at Silver Trails. New Leader Essentials, Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster Position Specific, Outdoor Leader Skills, Youth Protection, and Troop Committee Challenge will be offered. Sign up your whole unit leadership to get trained or even take a refresher course. For more information about Boy Scout training call Dave Zarling at 810-987-0226.



Cub Scout Leader training will be offered on multiple dates at more than one location for your convenience. Every boy deserves a trained leader. Pack Administration, Cubmaster, Webelos Leader, Den Leader, and Tiger Leader training will be available. Make sure your whole unit leadership is signed up.

We have awesome trainers who will make sure you are prepared to run a den, pack, patrol or troop with success.

We are working toward 100% of our leaders being trained. All training information is available on our website at www.bwcbasa.org and flyers will go to unit leadership.

September 18, 2010	- Pack Trainer at SSC
October 2, 2010	Cub Scout - All Positions at STSR
October 5, 2010	DL & CM/MC at Methodist Church
October 12, 2010	TL, WL at Methodist Church
November 6, 2010	BALOO & OWL (Outdoor Leader) at STSR

Other dates will be added when needed. For Cub Scout training contact Dawn Almstadt at 810-392-2805.

You Are All Invited to a Picnic With John Hardie

Pass the word and mark your calendar for this opportunity to reminisce with John Hardie, retired Silver Trails Camp Ranger. The potluck picnic is Wednesday, September 22, 2010 beginning at 4 pm at Rotary Lodge & Pavilion at Silver Trails. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service and your choice of hotdogs or hamburgers and buns. There will be grills on site ready to cook your food. Condiments and punch will be provided.

Bring your recollections and pictures to share with John. He has a special place in his heart for Silver Trails and the Blue Water Council Scouters. For questions call Rita Whitney 989-864-5433.

Special Thanks from Cyndi

I sincerely thank everyone for all of your well wishes, thoughts and prayers for my son Sergeant Daniel Jagodzinski after he suffered serious injuries during his deployment in Afghanistan. Thank you also for your patience while I was away caring for him. He is out of the hospital now on outpatient basis, doing well and on the road to recovery. He will be coming to Michigan for awhile in August and you are all welcome to attend his coming home party. We would be honored to have anyone and everyone join us! Details will be emailed out to unit leaders as soon as plans are finalized. Thanks again! Cyndi Jagodzinski

Adult Leader Award Recipient

Cub Scouter Award

Patrick Prevost

Cub Scout Den Leader Award

Kevin McKeown

Leslie Gillis



Commissioner's Corner...

It was my great honor to accept the position of Council Commissioner on July 1, 2010. Pete Cangemi formerly held the position and did an outstanding job during his tenure. His shoes will, indeed, be very hard to fill. While Pete has stepped down from his former position, he has not stepped away from Scouting and the Blue Water Council. We will see him in other important positions in the future. Thanks, Pete, for all of the time, energy and love that you have willingly given to the Blue Water Council.



The position of Council Commissioner is a challenging one. Thankfully, I have two able assistants to help me in my work. They are Dan Conrad of the Three Rivers District and Randy Smith of the Black River Basin District. With their help and that of all of our dedicated unit commissioners, I fully believe that the Blue Water Council will continue to provide a great program for the youth in our community and go on to even greater achievements in the future.

A new Scouting year is fast approaching in September. Planning and preparation are key to a successful Scouting year. Our unit commissioner staff can assist each unit in obtaining success. Unit leaders should think of their commissioner as a valuable resource that is there to use often. Not only is the commissioner a conduit of information from the District and Council, but he or she have been around Scouting for many years and have a great deal of useful experience that unit leaders can take advantage of. Commissioners stay abreast of what is going on in Scouting and pass that on to unit leaders so they can take advantage of it. The main job of a commissioner is to be a friend of the unit. A friend is there to encourage, offer suggestions when needed, act as a sounding board, help when needed, and be there during the good times and the more difficult ones. This year will present many challenges and opportunities for each unit. Our commissioner staff is there to help!

Steve McPherson, Council Commissioner

Help! Help! Help!

The Blue Water Council is always in need of volunteers to help run our events. We have many events such as Dad & Lad, Cub Scare Night, Twilight Camp and Mom & Me for Cub Scouts and Klondikes, Camporees and Campmasters for Boy Scouts. All registered adults are invited to staff or even take the plunge and become an event chairperson. We cannot do it without you! Call the Scout Service Center to let us know how you want to get involved at 810-982-9529.



Scout Shop News

Fall Round Up is just around the corner. We have all the gear you need to outfit your Scout with a new uniform and accessories. Visit www.scoutstuff.org and make your list before visiting the Scout Shop. If we don't have it in stock, it can be special ordered at no additional charge. The Scout Shop is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturdays beginning September 18 until October 24 from 10am until 1pm.

Don't forget our Cub Scout Uniform Special during the months of September and October. Purchase a shirt, hat, neckerchief and slide and receive your unit numbers, council strip and world crest free, an \$8.60 value.

Florida Sea Base 2011-Islamorada Island-Keys Adventure - July 31-August 6, 2011

Trade in your hiking boots for a snorkel and some fins! Join us for an amazing aquatic adventure in the fabulous Florida Keys. We will participate in an action packed program with many great adventures and opportunities to see America's only living coral reef up close and personal. This trip will be for a full seven days and will include adventures such as sailing, sea kayaking, deep sea fishing, snorkeling, camping and much, much more!

The Blue Water Council invites all registered youth and adults to participate in the adventure program. All youth must be 14 by September 1, 2011 and not older than 20 years of age. All adults must be at least 21 years old to apply and registered through the Blue Water Council. Cost of the adventure is \$1350, which includes all expenses for the week.

Sign up today for an adventure with a purpose! For more information or questions, contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at 810-982-9529 or cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org.

Boy Scouts of America Centennial Trees

From their first days in 1920, The Boy Scouts of America has built character and values-based leadership qualities in America's youth, and provided a platform for strengthening families. The Boys Scouts have practiced responsible environmental living and conservation of natural resources throughout their existence.

Everyone can join in the Boy Scouts of America's 100th Anniversary celebration through the purchase of a Boy Scouts Centennial Tree. As part of the 100th Anniversary Generations Connection program, join Scouts all over the country as they plant "living legacies" of Scouting's commitment to support youth and families. For \$20, you can buy a striking 2-4' tall Centennial tree to nurture for generation to come.

For every 100th Anniversary tree purchase, the Arbor Day Foundation will plant a corresponding tree in the newly designated Boy Scouts of America Centennial Forest. The Centennial Forest will aid in re-planting the Flathead National Forest in Montana after recent fires. If you choose, for \$20, you can have two trees planted in the Centennial Forest. For more information go to www.arborday.org/partnerships/bsa/centennialtrees.



Scouts Can Earn the Conservation Stewardship Award

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) has shared a long history of conservation stewardship with Scouting Organizations. Scouts have participated and completed a number of service projects or eagle projects on lands managed by the department. In honor of this commitment to conservation stewardship and in recognition of the service provided, the DNRE, in partnership with the Michigan Boy Scout and Girl Scout Councils, has initiated a Conservation Stewardship Award that Scouts can earn.



Depending on the Scouting level and program, both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can earn awards, badges, pins, etc while helping conserve Michigan's natural resources by participating in stewardship activities on state lands. The Scouting levels and requirements to earn a stewardship patch or medal and pins are listed on the website: www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Black River Basin District News

Summer is flying by and before you know it, fall round-up will be upon us for Cub Scout Packs to recruit our newest Tigers, Wolves, Bears and Webelos! Cubmasters and Committee Chairpersons need to contact me about Boy Talks and Round-up dates so we can run a smooth fall season!

Don't be left out Troops! You too can have an open house to recruit more boys to attend those Klondikes, Camporees, and Campmasters! Contact me to get those flyers printed and some new boys signed up!

Thank you to all of our volunteers for keeping our membership numbers going up, up and up! Den Leaders, Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Assistants and all the committees - without all of your hard work running quality programs, our district would not be in such great shape! Kudos to our District Committee for keeping the district heading in the right direction. Our Friends of Scouting team has done an outstanding job helping us reach our goals and we're not done yet! Thank you, thank you for your support of our Packs, Troops and Crews! After all, that is why we do what we do!

Cyndi Jagodzinski

Greetings from Silver Trails

As summer is in full swing so have the repairs been at camp. With help from a lot of people, the buildings at camp are looking great. There are a few projects left if anyone is looking for service projects this summer.

There are a lot of changes coming to camp as well. With most of the signatures in place, STSR will again have a live fire rifle range. There is also work on the new foot bridge across Silver Creek (Thank You Raymond Excavating).

Scoutreach/SONS are enjoying their summer programs as well. Dream Camp is held at Cleveland Elementary as well as here at STSR. Their activities include games, crafts, outdoor cooking, canoeing, and hiking.

Yours in Scouting, Jerry Deeg

Youth Protection Training Required For All Adults Involved With Scouting

Effective June 1, 2010, Youth Protection training is required for all registered volunteers. New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before they submit an application for registration. The certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time application is made and before volunteer service with youth begins. Youth protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

You can take the training on line at MyScouting. If you are already a registered volunteer, use your member ID number and the training should go on your profile. If you are not already registered, you can still take the training, then print out the training card and send it into the Scout Service Center.

We will also be offering Youth Protection Training at the Scout Service Center. Watch for upcoming dates on our website: www.bwecbsa.org.

Scouts March in the Rotary Parade to Celebrate BSA's 100th Anniversary

The 2010 Centennial Tour Bus along with members of the Jamboree Troop 1220 and Packs 102 and 171 marched in the Rotary Parade on July 14. The tour bus has traveled over 46,000 miles throughout the United States over the past year and a half visiting 305 councils. It made a stop last year at our council as a kickoff for the BSA Centennial Celebration. Lord Baden Powell (*aka Orville Collins*), founder of the Boy Scouts, marched along with the group of Scouts.



BSA Scout Show 100th Anniversary Celebration at Pine Grove Park

In observance of Scouting's 100th Anniversary, we are inviting all units to participate in a Scout Show this summer.

When: August 20 - 22, 2010

Where: Pine Grove Park in Port Huron

Who: All units and public invited

Cost: \$5.00 per Scout registration fee

Help us show the community what our Scout program and Scout tradition is all about. It will also be an opportunity to have some fun! We would like all units to participate in some way such as: pictures, skits, songs, games, displays, demonstrations. Get your thinking cap on and get involved. Boy Scout units are invited to camp out. For more information contact John Kukuk at 810-633-9190. This is our time to shine! What are you going to do? Sign up now!

Note: The show will be free to the public.

From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



Randy called and said a long distance paddler was coming into town that I might want to meet. I'll admit I was suspicious. He told me he had become acquainted with this person on the internet, and I wondered if it was a scam to get money or infect his computer. In this day and age, I guess we need to think that way!

Well, when Randy guided me to the paddler's website (www.portagetoportage.com), complete with blog, the whole story gained credibility. I became excited to meet this paddler, Jake Stachovak, of Wassau, Wisconsin.

Jake left Wisconsin on December 6, 2009; traveled down the Mississippi River; around the Gulf of Mexico and Florida; up the East Coast to New York Harbor; through the Hudson River and canal network and through Lakes Ontario, Erie, and St. Clair; and was now heading up the St. Clair River, and planning to stay the night in Marysville at Randy's house.

My wife spotted the kayaks coming up river off the St. Clair boardwalk before I did. Randy and his son Joel had put in at the St. Clair marina to paddle the last miles to Marysville with Jake. Joel was out in front, with Randy and Jake bringing up the rear. The wind and power boat traffic was agitating the river a bit, making the paddling, well, interesting, to say the least!

Jake, a self proclaimed Kayak Bum, is a certified kayak instructor, and has solid experience paddling in the ocean, doing long crossings, and can roll his kayak comfortably, if necessary. He managed his kayak smoothly in the rough water.

After saluting the armada in St. Clair, we went to Marysville to await their arrival. Following the landing in Marysville, we helped Jake unload his kayak, removing enough weight to allow carrying it to Randy's trailer.

Jake is a pro. Upon opening each cargo hatch in the deck of the kayak, a light weight duffle bag was the first thing visible. Jake proceeded to remove many smaller bags that were stored beneath, and place them in the duffle. Quickly, the three compartments were adequately emptied so that the kayak could be carried easily. (Loaded, the kayak was over 200 pounds.) The individual bags each had a purpose; food, clothing, first aid, tentage, etc. Each one also had a specific location in the compartments. What a system!

We chatted with Jake for some time by the river. His primary inspiration for the kayak trip of 5000 miles is curiosity, fueled by the spirit of Verlen Kruger (legendary long distance paddler). Jake explained that when he looks up or down a river, there is always, eventually, a bend. He wonders, "What lies around the bend?" That curiosity has motivated this most amazing journey.

Later that evening after Jake was fed, watered, and showered at Randy and Teresa's house, Kathy and I stopped in for a cup of coffee and the opportunity to share a few paddling stories. We quickly learned to appreciate Jake's sincerity, sense of humor, and level of experience.

As we talked about canoes, kayaks, camping, and all the things that go with, the coffee kept flowing and the excitement we all felt never waned. In this world of entirely too many gadgets, crowded cities, and environmental calamities, Jake has created an adventure for himself. And most of it has been very good and exciting.

I asked Jake about the "darker side" of his expedition and he explained that he had had only two really bad experiences. In one case, his "stuff" was stolen from the river's edge while he sought provisions in New Madrid, MO. That it was a small town, with a very helpful police force, allowed the return of most of his possessions within a few days. The two thieves were far outnumbered by the good folks of the town who came to Jake's aid.

In the second situation, Jake was assaulted by two young men with pepper spray, probably with intent to rob him, while he sought provisions in Vicksburg, MS. He recovered, involved the authorities and paddled on. Jake says he will return to give Vicksburg "another chance", at a kayak race held there annually.

The shadows grew long and although I could have talked with this man all night, it was time to go. Jake was noticeably tired and had a significant paddle ahead of him in the morning. We called it a night.

Jake got a good night's sleep and left in the morning, putting in at the same place where he took out the day before. He was paddling before 8 AM.

Both Randy and I, separately, had cautioned Jake to take the Canadian side of the river going out into the lake, taking advantage of the large eddy that creates a north flowing current on the Canadian side. We both added that the American side, compliments of the seawall, offers huge standing waves, making paddling difficult, and even treacherous.

Jake took the advice and made a smooth exit from the river to the lake on the Canadian side. When he left the eddy for the open lake, however, he faced a 20 knot wind out of the north. He was punching holes in 4 foot waves as he battled his way north. A less adept paddler would have been forced to turn back.

Lakeport State Park was an ideal stopping point after a workout like that. Randy and Teresa drove up to the park and treated him to an "all you can eat" fish dinner at Duffy's restaurant! What a perfect end to Jake's "Blue Water Experience".

Jake is a very personable fellow, out on an adventure. His words of wisdom are simple and appropriate for Scouts and Scouters alike. Jake told me, "Find an adventure and go do it. If you already have adventures of some sort, big or small, go do more of them. The rewards are huge."

For Jake, the friends he is finding and the sharing of experiences is his reward. Even when he had bad experiences because of one or two misguided people, he focused on the many good people who stepped up to help him.

I can't say it any better. We can all learn from Jake!

Steve Down July 2010

Program Kickoff-Wednesday, August 25, 2010

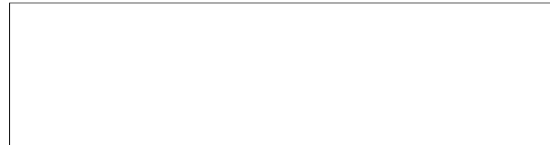


The BRIDGE
BLUE
WATER
COUNCIL

924 7th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
Port Huron, MI
48060
Permit No. 307

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Member Agency

August

- 7-8 Archery Shoot - *Silver Trails*
- 9-11 Twilight Camp - *STSR*
- 9 Executive Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm *SSC*
- 14 OA Leadership Meeting
- 18 Combined District Committee/Commissioner Meeting
- 20-22 Boy Scout Show - *Pine Grove Park*
- 25 Program Kickoff-6 pm First United Methodist Church**
- 25 Archery Committee Meeting
- 31 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm *Westminster Church*

September

- 2 **Popcorn Kickoff-6:30pm First United Methodist Church**
- 6 **Labor Day - Scout Service Center Closed**
- 7 Commissioner Meetings - 7 pm
- 7 Cub Scout Roundtable - 7 pm *SSC*
- 11-12 Archery Shoot - *Silver Trails*
- 13 Executive Board Meeting - *Maritime Center*
- 15 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 17 Boy Scout Roundtable - *STSR*
- 17-19 Indian Lore Campmaster - *STSR*
- 24-26 OA Fall Conclave - *STSR*
- 27 Properties Committee Meeting - 7 pm *SSC*
- 28 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm *Westminster Church*

October

- 1 Venturing Weekend - *STSR*
- 2 Cub Scout Leader Training - *STSR*
- 5 **Popcorn Sale Begins**
- 5 Cub Scout Leader Training - *Methodist Church*
- 8-10 Mom & Me - *STSR*
- 9 OA Leadership Meeting
- 11 Executive Committee Meeting - 6:30 *SSC*
- 12 Cub Scout Leader Training - *Methodist Church*
- 13 Cub Scout Roundtable - 7 pm *SSC*
- 13 Commissioner Meetings - 7 pm
- 15 Boy Scout Roundtable - *STSR*
- 15-17 Fall Camporee - *STSR*
- 20 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 23 Cub Scare Night - *STSR*
- 26 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm *Westminster Church*
- 27 Archery Committee Meeting -7 pm *SSC*
- 31 Halloween

Council President

Earl DesJardins 810-984-5506 ext 201

Council Commissioner

Steve McPherson 810-966-2246

Black River Basin District

Terry Green-District Chairman 810-385-7669
Randy Smith-District Commissioner 810-305-0783

3-Rivers District

Dan Steinmetz-District Chairman 810-392-3616
Dan Conrad-District Commissioner 810-794-9907

Roundtable Commissioners

CS Roundtable
BS Roundtable

Scout Service Center Staff 810-982-9529

e-mail address

Paul Schwartz	Scout Executive	paulw.schwartz@scouting.org
Korissa Kramer	District Executive	korissa.kramer@scouting.org
Cyndi Jagodzinski	Paraprofessional	cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org
Janice Dubay	Office Mgr./Finance	jdubay@bsamail.org
Jerry Deeg	Camp Ranger	jerry.deeg@scouting.org
Judy McCarthy	Secretary/Receptionist	jumccart@bsamail.org
Lori Thueme	Scout Shop Mgr	lori.thueme@scouting.org