

The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA June - July 2010

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Editor: Judy McCarthy



From Our Scout Executive

We recently had our annual Support a Scout Luncheon to raise support for our Scouting program. This year our speaker was Rebecca Hagelin and I wish that all of our Scout Leaders could have heard her message. Rebecca spoke about all the challenges that our boys face today. She also spoke about how boys today desire to be challenged and that they want to be held to high standards. She spoke about how, as adults, we need to expect a lot from the boys, and the boys will rise to the challenge.

We, as Scouters, are not doing our Scouts any favors by lowering the bar. Whether it be a merit badge, an activity pin, a Cub Scout rank or especially an Eagle Project, we need to expect high standards from our Scouts, and the boys will feel a larger sense of accomplishment by reaching these higher goals. It is our obligation as Scouters to get the most out of these young men and build them into citizens we can all be proud of.

Paul Schwartz
Scout Executive

Note: We have a few copies of Rebecca Hagelin's latest book "30 Ways in 30 Days to Save Your Family" to sell at \$20.

Jamboree Troop Ready For Their Adventure

The Blue Water Council Jamboree Troop of 36 youth and 4 leaders will be off to the 2010 100th Anniversary National Jamboree soon. They will be leaving the area on July 22 and visiting several places before they reach the Jamboree at Fort AP Hill in Virginia. Their plans are to stay at Prince William National Forest for several days and visit the Harley Davidson Plant, Marine Corp Museum, a night bus tour of Washington D.C and visit the National Mall.

The 2010 Jamboree will be from July 26 until August 4, 2010. Their days will be filled with a variety of activities. You name it! The Jamboree program reflects the skills of Scouting—physical fitness, environmental conservation, our national heritage and the true spirit of Scouting.

Daily activities include an incredible merit badge midway, arts and sciences, a re-creation of Baden Powell's original Scout camp on Brownsea Island, an American Indian village, regional entertainment stages and many other activities. The arena shows are a highlight for all participants. The Jamboree is Scouting at its very best.

Before reaching home, the Scouts will also be visiting Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. They arrive home on August 5 after a great adventure with many pictures and stories to tell.



Annual Program Kickoff Wednesday, August 18, 2010

As the school year draws to a close, it is time to begin planning for the next Scouting season. Planning, coordinating and funding your unit's events are an important undertaking. To help you along, the council is sponsoring the **Annual Program Kickoff** which will take place on Wednesday, August 18, 2010 beginning at 6 pm. Information to address the needs of the unit will be presented. It is important that key leaders attend the kickoff. Start your planning now by putting this event on your calendar. Check the Blue Water website at www.bwcbasa.org for any updates.

Location: First United Methodist Church

Schedule: 6 pm-6:45 pm-A light dinner (donations accepted)
6:45 pm-8:30 pm-Council program

What to bring: Your unit representatives

The date for your FOS Presentation

The name of your Popcorn Kernel

The date of your Fall Roundup for Packs

Please RSVP by Friday, August 13, 2010 and let the Scout Service Center know the names and how many will be attending from your unit.

Learn to Sail - Sea Scout Sailing

A sure sign of summer is that three Sea Scout sailing yachts are about to be launched for the summer by Ships 109 and 133. Each ship has a 25 or 27 foot sailboat for their unit. The two units combine to sail on the 40 foot sailboat Caprice which was received late last summer. The yachts are stored over the winter at Desmond Marine and berthed in the summer at Port Huron Yacht Club facilities. Sea Scouting provides the only Learn to Sail Program in Port Huron throughout the summer on Thursday evenings. All participants must be registered with a Sea Scout unit, must be at least 13 years old and finished with the 8th grade. Scouters can easily participate by doing a multiple registration with one of the Ships.

The Sea Scouts fund their program with various fundraisers including dinners and sailing adventures for registered Scouts and Scouters. Details for your unit's participation in a summer sailing adventure can be obtained from the Blue Water Council office. Your participation helps fund this unique Scouting program.

After becoming familiar with the basic skills for sailing, sailboat racing opportunities are provided in cooperation with the Port Huron Yacht Club members and on Caprice on Wednesday evenings and some weekend days.

Mark your calendars to join the Sea Scouts on July 15 at the Port Huron Yacht Club for our fundraising chicken dinner on Family Night prior to the Mackinac Island race.

Wayne Hastings, Unit Commissioner for Sea Scouting



Cub Scout News



New & Updated Cub Scout 2010 Leader Materials Are Available Now!

Updated training materials streamline the new delivery method and help leaders make the most of their time.

New for 2010

32354 CS Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide '10

This guide features brand-new content, including den meeting plans for all ranks plus pack meeting plans connected to monthly themes. Replaces 34409 **Retail: \$6.99**

32355 CS Roundtable Guide '10

This guide had been completely rewritten using the 12 Core Values of Cub Scouting as monthly themes. Replaces 34410 **Retail: \$6.99**

Updated Content

33221 CS Leader Handbook '10

Updated with minor revisions. No content was eliminated but substantial duplication has been removed. **Retail: \$7.99**

34875 CS Leader Position-Specific Training w/CD '10

Updated with minor revisions. Reorganized to bring together all the basics of den leadership into one module (separate mini modules address rank specific differences). **Retail: \$9.99**

33853 Webelos Leader Guide

Updated with minor revisions. This guide assists Webelos leaders in planning meetings; helps Webelos in earning their activity badges and Arrow of Light. **Retail: \$7.99**

Updated with New Covers Only

34299 CS Academics and Sports Guide - Retail: \$7.99

34162 BALOO Training - Retail: \$7.99

33832 CS Leader How-to Book - Retail: \$7.99

33212 CS Den & Pack Ceremonies - Retail: \$7.99

Please note, on the items that have been updated with new covers only, there will be no content changes from current version. These new covers will begin transitioning in May and continue through September as current inventory is sold.

Webber Wildlife Museum Opens It's Doors to Scouts!

Pack 261 told us about a wonderful wildlife museum they visited recently. The Weber Wildlife Museum is located at 44710 Morley Drive in Clinton Township (West of I94 off M59). I contacted the museum and they told me they have about 200 animals set in their natural diorama environments, complete with painted murals, trees, and mountains. The animals are from all over the world and are all mounted in full life sized mounts. Scout groups are welcome to visit them free of charge. They only ask that a Thank You card be sent after the visit. For more information or to make a reservation contact Dick Bermingham at dbermingham@thewebbergroup.com or 586-465-3800. Mr. Bermingham said he conducts tours on Tuesday and Thursday evening around 6 pm. Sounds like a great field trip for all Scouts, give them a call!



Twilight Camp "100 Years of Fun" August 9-11, 2010

"100 Years of Fun" is the theme for this year's Cub Scout Twilight Camp. All Cub Scouts from Tiger thru Webelos are invited. The Scouts will learn games as well as do archery and BB gun shooting and have a great time!



The first two days (Monday & Tuesday) will be held at Silver Trails for the Scouts and their parent or leader. Wednesday will be Family Day at Pete Cangemi's Mooselips Lodge. Your whole family is invited on Wednesday to bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the evening. The boys will enjoy swimming, fishing, canoeing, a bonfire and other games. The cost of the 3-day camp is \$30 per Scout which includes a T-shirt. The camp will be held from 4-9 pm.

Adult supervision is required so get together with your den or pack and come as a group. The event flyer is on our website www.bwcbasa.org under Cub Scout Activities. To volunteer to help with the program, call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529.

Webelos Weekend Changed to July 30-August 1, 2010.

We are inviting all boys entering the 4th and 5th grade this fall to come to our weekend camping adventure just for Webelos. You will participate in a great program where you will have hands-on learning experiences of the Scout skills needed to do overnight tent camping as a den. Everyone will enjoy this weekend of camping, skills instruction, games, advancements, cooking and campfires. A flyer will be available soon with all the details.



23rd Annual Free Fishing Clinic for Kids

Saturday, June 5, 2010

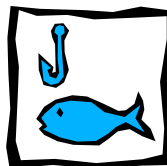
10 am-3 pm

William P. Thompson Pond

40th Street

(One Block South of Lapeer Road)

Port Huron Township



This event is open to all kids, and it is FREE! Even lunch! Poles and worms are provided. For more information contact Bill Thompson at the PH Township Office 810-987-6600.

**Earn the National Summertime Pack Award.
Have your pack do an activity during June, July
and August to qualify.**



Boy Scout News



2010 Historical Merit Badge Program

It is hard to believe that just one hundred years ago when a Scout earned the Signaling merit badge, that Scout most likely lived in a home with no telephone and probably no electricity. It was a time when there were no power tools, no Home Depots to shop, no TV, no radio, and no cell phones. Scouts of that period were very likely taught to be self-sufficient and were able to build their own furniture, which was actually used. Their neighborhoods were different, too. Everyone knew one another. There were few gas stations, and instead of mega grocery stores, there were only locally run grocery stores, pharmacies, and general stores.

One hundred years later, our world is quite different. Our council offers four vintage merit badges to help a Scout understand how these two worlds are different but, in many ways, the same. The 2010 Historical Merit Badge program offers **Signaling** (introduced in 1910), **Carpentry** (introduced in 1911), **Pathfinding** (introduced in 1911), and **Tracking** (Stalking; introduced in 1911). Scouts of 2010 may earn these badges during 2010 using the same requirements as in 1910 and 1911. Original merit badge pamphlets may be found at www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx, along with interesting narratives about each historical merit badge and that explain the language used in 1910 and how it can be translated into today's terms.

OA News

I want to mention a few dates to everybody. We have a membership meeting on June 12th at Acheson Maritime Center in Port Huron at 9:00 am. Many important things will be discussed at this meeting like the Fall Fellowship, Service Projects and the Section Conclave 2011. The Fall Fellowship is a great time to get together with everybody in the lodge and have a fantastic time. I encourage everybody to come to the meeting and this year's Fall Fellowship. *WWW, Matthew Allen*



Note: There will be no Boy Scout Roundtables until September.

Mackinac Island Service Troop Has Spots Available

The Mackinac Island Service Troop is heading to Mackinac Island on August 14, 2010 for a week of service, food, sports and fun. If you would like to join them, contact Kirk Seibert at 810-765-2892. Information and applications are available on our website. www.bwcbasa.org. (Under Boy Scouts, Mackinac)

Mark Porter Scholarship Winner for 2010

The Mark Porter Scholarship was established to help Eagle Scouts in the Blue Water Council with their post-high school education. The scholarship was set up by the parents of Mark Porter, a Scout from Troop 106 in Fort Gratiot, Michigan. Mark had recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout when he was killed in an automobile accident. It is hoped that through this scholarship his dreams live on.

At the Blue Water Council Annual Dinner on May 10 the scholarship was awarded to Bradley Siler from Troop 216. Bradley has been active in Scouting for 12 years and has served in many leadership positions including Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. He earned the Scout religious award and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He is a member of the National Honor Society and maintains a 3.62 GPA. Bradley was a member of the Marysville Viking football team for 4 years serving as captain for 2 years. He was also active in band, track and wrestling.

Bradley plans on attending Alma College where he wants to earn a degree in Bio-Medical Engineering. While attending Alma, he will be playing on their football team, The Scots. Congratulations Bradley!

This is the final year the Mark Porter Scholarship will be awarded. This scholarship has helped many fine Eagle Scouts reach their goals. We thank the Porter family for their generosity and commitment to Scouting for all these years!



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

Troop 104

Anthony Warren

Troop 106

Eric Meyers

Christopher Richards

Troop 111

Chad Weiss

Troop 132

William Knuth

Troop 141

Jameson Eisele

Troop 216

Keenan Beals

Troop 294

David Anderson

Troop 296

Travis Pietrykowski

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 in June, August & September

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 three shoots are as follows.



Shoot #1 June 19 & 20, 2010

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 9 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 at 810-304-0823

Register at Silver Trails on the day of the event.

Thank You for Helping at Camp Cleanup

I would like to thank all the Troops, Packs and Venturing Crews who helped clean up Silver Trails on April 17. The camp looked great after everything was done. Good Job! Remember "Do a Good Turn Daily". Thank you, Diane Hazzard

Special Thank You from Diane

I would like to personally thank everyone who helped me get out to California to see my daughter, Amanda, during her medical emergency. The doctors originally thought she had a stroke but that doesn't seem to be the case. She is doing much better and we hope her condition can be regulated with medication. Amanda also would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers. My Scouting family is great! Thank You!

Diane Hazzard

Thank You from Bradley Silver

I would like to take this time to thank you for awarding me the Mark Porter Memorial Scholarship. It means a lot to me to be granted this honor. Scouting has been a really big part of my life and always will be. It has taught me so many life lessons. Thanks again.

Bradley Siler

Introducing Korissa Kramer

Hello everyone! My name is Korissa Kramer and I am very excited to join the staff of the Blue Water Council on June 16. Having previously worked in Chicago as Human Resources Generalist for Nordex USA and as a Recruiter for Interviewing Consultants Inc., it brings me great joy to be a part of the community again!

As an avid volunteer with various organizations throughout my lifetime, I join the Scouting program enthusiastic about the opportunities it offers to youth in the community. I am excited for the future of the organization, and with your help, we will be able to continue the success of the Scouting program in Sanilac and St. Clair Counties! I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of the volunteers in the Blue Water Council in the very near future.

Annual Rotary International Day Parade

The Annual Rotary International Day Parade will help kick-off "Boat Week" on Wednesday, July 14 beginning at 6:30 pm. The parade participants will gather in front of the YMCA and follow a parade route through town.

There are usually 100 floats, bands and participants in the parade. This year we will have the Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Tour Van in the parade. The van will be escorted by the Blue Water Council Jamboree Troop led by Scoutmaster Kevin Koveck. The van has completed a trip to all 304 councils in the United States and made a stop in Port Huron last year. This parade is a major event in Port Huron. Come join the fun and cheer on our Scouts!

Thank You for Help With the Museum Display

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the "100 Years of Scouting" Exhibit at the Port Huron Museum a success. The committee made up of Lee Stevens, Earl DesJardins, Mike Whaling, Dave Brooks, Paul Schwartz and Suzette Bromley came up with the idea. Thanks to Suzette who's vision planned out the display and the rest of the staff and volunteers at the museum who helped in a variety of ways, the more than 50 people who loaned items for the display, Don Kent and Troop 205 who built the campfire scene, Kevin Koveck and Troop 245 who built the Gateway, Gary Beem who built the Pinewood Derby and shooting gallery stands, Jerry Deeg for setting up the shooting gallery, the Scout volunteers who came in on Saturdays and Sundays to help staff the event. This column is not big enough to name everyone. I would also like to thank everyone for coming to see the exhibit. I hope it showed that Scouting is still an enriching experience for boys and leaders as it was 100 years ago and it will continue for another 100 years. Thanks again!! *Judy*

Winners of the Pinewood Derby Car Design Competition

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pinewood Derby Car Design Competition at the Port Huron Museum during the "100 Year of Scouting" display. The winners in each division were: Cub Scout-Anthony Robinson; Boy Scout-Douglas Young; Adult-Kristy Gilbert. Congratulations for your efforts. Each received a check for \$50.

Adult Leader Award Recipients

Cub Scout Den Leader Award

Kelli Strable
Denise Nutaitis
Carmella Falecki



Webelos Den Leader Award

Eric Boucher

Boy Scout Leader Training Award

Eric Boucher

Venturing Training Award

Cyndi Jagodzinski



Chris Knuth, Dianna Phillips, Laura Knuth

Commissioner Corner.....

A Scouting opportunity is open!

Steve McPherson has been elected our new council commissioner effective July 1, 2010. As we welcome him to this important new role, we also need to recruit an energetic Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner. How about you...or someone you know?



Thanks to your efforts and those of your unit volunteers, our council has achieved quality status for 6 years in a row. Fantastic! As of April, our council commissioner corps is tied for 1st place in unit commissioner ratios for Area 2, and 3rd in percentage of top leaders trained and units re-chartered. Keep encouraging leaders to become trained, as top leaders must be, to recharter their unit in 2011. Our Area 2 leads the region in utilization of computer tracking of unit visits....try it, it works.

Randy Smith **Dan Conrad** **Pete Cangemi**
BRB District **3-Rivers District** **Council Commissioner**

New Blue Water Council Executive Officers Elected

At the Blue Water Council Annual Dinner on May 10, the following Executive Officers were elected to serve for the July 2010 thru June 2010 year.

President - Earl E. DesJardins
Immediate Past President - Michael J. Whaling
Commissioner - Steve McPherson
Treasurer - Mike Turnbull
VP Administration - Robert Beedon
VP Finance - Michael J. Whaling
VP Membership - Timothy Meno
VP Properties - Gary Beem
VP Program - George Borst
National Council Rep - Michael J. Whaling
BRB District Chairman - Terry Green
Three-Rivers District Chairman - Dan Steinmetz
Other Executive Boards Members elected were: John Adair, Peter J. Cangemi, Orville Collins, David Corby, Robert Coulter, Steven Down, Tom Gaffney, Michael Glenn, Jerry Grace, Jack Hood, Keith Klug, Karen Lord, Paul Lydy, Joseph McCarthy, Donald McColman, Franklin Mortimer III, Eugene Mozal, Christine Newberry, William G. Oldford, Jr., Markus Schulz, LeRoy Stevens, Dr. Thomas Simmons, Greg Smith, Barb Stimpson, David Whipple, Rita Whitney, Robert Wiley.

District Award of Merit Recipients

Awarded the District Award of Merit for 3-Rivers District was Dianna Phillips. Dianna has been involved in Scouting with Troop 245 for many years. She just stepped down as advancement chairman for the troop. She has also been a member of the 3-Rivers District Committee. She is the mother of three Eagle Scouts!

Black River Basin District awarded the District Award of Merit to Christopher Knuth. Chris has been involved in Scouting for many years with Pack 132, Troop 132 (Scoutmaster for two years), merit badge counselor and has helped with many events such as Mom & Me. Also receiving the District Award of Merit was Laura Knuth. Laura has been involved with Pack 132, Troop 132 and just started up Crew 132 with Chris. She is a merit badge counselor and member of the Black River Basin District Committee. Laura as been co-chairman of Mom & Me several times.

We congratulate these deserving volunteers for their dedication to Scouting!

Silver Beaver Award For 2010

On May 10 at the Annual Dinner, the Blue Water Council awarded Michael Whaling the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth. This award is the highest award a Council's volunteers can bestow on a fellow volunteer. Mike



has served as Blue Water Council President for three years. He is the Immediate Past President, National Council Representative and was just elected as Vice-President of Finance. Mike serves on many special committees for the Blue Water Council including FOS Luncheon, Sporting Clays Event, Endowment and the "100 Years of Scouting" Exhibit at the Port Huron Museum. He received his Eagle Scout award in 1965. Mike is also very active in the community and involved with several civic organizations.

***Thank you Mike for all you do for Scouting
and the community!***

Scout Shop News.....

The Historical Merit Badges for 2010 are now available. They can only be earned in 2010. Check www.bwcbbsa.org for a link to the requirements. We have a few Dad & Lad t-shirts and sweatshirts left over. Come and get yours before they are gone. Any remaining popcorn left from the popcorn sale is available at ½ off - stop and get your popcorn fix. We have several 100th Anniversary items available such as hiking staffs, staff shields, mugs, patches and more. As always, if you see something on www.scoutstuff.org, I can order it for you and save you the shipping.

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: bwcbbsa.org or contact Terry Green at 810-385-7669. There are still openings.

Border Crossing Information

As of June 1, 2009, all US and Canadian citizens who are 16 and older traveling between the US and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea will be required to present a valid passport, passport card, Frequent Traveler card (NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST), Enhanced Driver's License or Military ID with travel orders.

The wording for **Children:**

US and Canadian citizen children under age 16 arriving by land or sea from contiguous territory may present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card.

The wording for **Groups of Children:**

US and Canadian citizen children under age 19 arriving by land or sea from contiguous territory traveling with a school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or sports team may also present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card.

The last sentence specifically refers to adult supervised Scout group activities. Each vehicle should have the documents for those in that vehicle. Each Scout (minor) not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian should have a permission letter with medical authorization.

Carrying food across international borders has many restrictions. Be sure to declare all food items, even if the items came from the United States. All plants must be inspected before entry into the United States. No firewood of any kind should be taken across an international border. For other questions, contact Bob Pearson at pearson385@comcast.net

Join us for the Grand Cookout

Monday, July 12, 2010

This year's Grand Cookout will be held on Monday, July 12, 2010 at the Silver Trails Scout Reservation. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm followed by a brief joint meeting of the council board, property committee, commissioner staff, and district committee.



Once a year, members of these important committees are given the opportunity to get together to share ideas, enjoy fellowship and appreciate the Silver Trails Scout Reservation. The steak or chicken dinner, along with all the fixings is \$10 per person. Please contact the Scout Service Center to place your reservation and to indicate your preference of steak or chicken. Spouses are welcome. Make your reservation by Thursday July 8, 2010 at 5 pm at the Scout Service Center 810-982-9529.

Florida Sea Base Adventure

July 31-August 6, 2011

The Blue Water Council invites registered youth and adults to participate in the Florida Sea Base, Keys Adventure Program in 2011. Sign up today! Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity! Applications are available at www.bwcbbsa.org or at the Scout Service Center. For more information, contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at 810-982-9529 or cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org.



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

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.

Eastern Michigan Bank & Blue Water Council Sporting Clays Fundraiser Event

When: Sunday, August 29, 2010

**Where: Four Squares Conservation Club
6779 Cline Road, Jeddo**

Shooters Fee: \$100

The shooters fee includes 75 bird rounds of sporting clays, shells, dinner and beverages. Sign up as an individual or get your friends together and come as a group. Groups of 5 will travel from station to station together. There will be a live auction, door prizes and silent auction prior to and during dinner. For more information call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529 or go to our website: www.bwcbbsa.org and get a brochure.

From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



Well, a couple editions of Scoutmaster have sat at the helm of our Troop since I gave up the reigns. While in that seat, I tried to do things the right way. Sometimes I was successful and sometimes not. What a thrill today, to assist with an activity, and see the kind of planning and focus on safety that was many times only a vision when I wore the Scoutmaster patch.

A canoe trip on the Black River was in the cards. The plan was to camp on a Friday night, paddle the Black River on Saturday, take out at Silver Trails Scout Reservation, camp, and leave Sunday for home. The only concerns were the exact put-ins, take-outs, and potential safety issues.

Scoutmaster Brian and ASM John told me that Bill Barden was designing and managing the canoeing activity. That left no doubt that whatever the plan it would be a good one.

The basic plan was to put in at Amadore (Galbraith Line Road) and take out at Silver Trails Scout Reservation (Jeddo Road). An option of putting in at Camp Chickagami (north of Croswell at Roache Road) was under consideration. The trip, as designed, was perfect. I couldn't improve on it.

Bill, unfortunately, developed a conflict with the dates the Troop had chosen. Brian asked a few of the "old guys", including me, to participate, and try to fill in for Bill. Randy, Pete, and I joined in.

At the first meeting I attended I began to marvel at the Troop's execution of an event. To start with, the trip was conceived by the boys. What a concept! The Scouts had established their own goal, and suggested their own plan.

When I began to ask a few basic questions about details like swimming ability, and adult training, I was amazed. In fact, that night, half the Troop was at the Marysville pool completing their swimming tests. (So many were signed up for this swimming qualification that the school would only let half the Scouts attend at a time!) Adults were telling me about having completed their Safety Afloat qualification. "This would make a promotional video", I thought!

The only question was whether to put in at Amadore or Chickagami. You see, there is a low head dam in Croswell, which serves the sugar plant there. At normal water levels, the dam is not threatening, but does present a significant safety hazard. At higher levels, low head dams carry the moniker, "drowning machine", and for good reason. Low head dams present unique and hidden safety concerns.

Putting in at Chickagami would incorporate the dam into the trip. Putting in at Amadore would eliminate it. A decision had to be made.

Again, I was impressed. Brian and John invited the adults from the Troop, and the "consultants", to evaluate the situation. Putting in at Amadore would work, but there was a desire in the Troop to start a Chickagami, because it would be a paddle from the "Old Scout Camp to the New Scout Camp", or "Past to Future". We all gathered in Croswell and went to the dam.

Water levels were quite normal, with flow in the 200 cfs to 300 cfs range. (Cfs means cubic feet per second, a measure of the volume of water flowing past a point per second. This data is available in real time, on the internet.) The flow downstream of the dam, while impressive, was not deep enough to entrap a canoeist or canoe, should a boat somehow end up there.

There is a very nice portage on the west side of the river, which would offer a place to take out almost one hundred yards upstream. The carry wasn't too difficult, either. The only problem was that the portage is actually on private property. The Troop avoided legal discussions about the rights of canoeists and simply asked permission to portage the Troop at the appointed date and time. No problem. (John, a Croswell native, seemed to know everyone in town, or at least they knew him!)

We went to Chickagami and checked out the campground. The put in looked great, as well as the campground. We saw no issues, except the river itself.

There is always the potential of "sweepers" and "strainers", and these can change every day. (Sweepers are objects, generally trees that lean over the river, potentially "sweeping" canoes and their occupants from the river. Strainers are similar, but in the water, allowing water through, but not people or canoes. These represent the single greatest safety threat to paddlers.)

Plans were firmed up. The trip would be from Chickagami to Silver Trails. A lead boat, with experienced, adult paddlers would scout the river for hazards. A trailing boat with experienced, adult paddlers would assure that no canoe was left behind. It was a solid plan.

Then came the rains. The week preceding the trip was filled with rain. We watched the water flows on the internet. The quiescent river which we inspected when it flowed at 200 cfs was now flowing at 4000 cfs! The water was over the banks and flowing violently through the woods. The manageable dam at Croswell had transcended to an intimidating obstacle, worthy of all our respect.

I called Brian. No problem. He had already cancelled the paddling. They had a "Plan B". The Troop had pre-arranged to go to Pete's farm and paddle a bit in his pond, and generally have a fun day outdoors to replace the canoeing portion of the trip, in the event of a problem. It was great.

I traveled the river that day in my truck, with my canoeing buddy, Tom. We went from bridge to bridge and inspected the river. We ended up at Chickagami. The decision made was a good one. The quiescent river had become a dangerous monster. It was off to Pete's to enjoy the day in safety.

Plan your activities and activate your plan. Have a "Plan B", and don't hesitate to use it! Most of all, let your Troop grow. There's nothing better than seeing your Troop realize, that which was only a vision, not so long ago. Great job, Troop, you are an example!

Steve Down May 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



June

- 5 Canoe Campmaster
- 12 OA Membership Meeting
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting - SSC
- 16 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 19-20 Silver Trails Archery Shoot - STSR
- 29 Eagle Board of Review - *Westminster Church*
- 30 Archery Meeting - 7 pm SSC

July

- 5 Scout Service Center Closed**
- 12 Grand Cookout - 6:30 STSR
- 26 2010 National Scout Jamboree Begins
- 27 Eagle Board of Review - *Westminster Church*
- 30-31, Webelos Weekend - STSR
- Aug 1

Save the Date!! Popcorn Kickoff September 2, 2010.

August

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

You Have Mail.

Each unit has their own mail folder in the resource room.
Check it whenever you come into the Service Center.

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3-Rivers District

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