

Troop 81 Newsletter April 2011

Welcome to the first page of the April 2011 Newsletter. If you're wondering what's wrong with the title, I'm sorry, but you will have to keep wondering, because I'm not telling. For this month's Newsletter, we'll be doing something a little different: instead of trying to come up with a title for each of the articles, I'm just going to say who wrote it, and leave the title up to the reader. Each article has a large space above it for you to write your title. Here is an example of this revolutionary new system:

By James (That's me! (Actually, it's just my name, so it doesn't HAVE TO be me, but in this case the name in question is representing me...I know that makes no sense at all, just go with it))

Last weekend, the Troop went to Alpine Scout Camp. Normally, the Troop goes to Alpine for winter cabin camping, but this year we decided to do something a little different.

Instead of cabin camping, the Troop stayed in tents in the Delaware campsite. After breakfast on Saturday, everyone drove across the road to the river and proceeded to bike 16 miles along the Palisades. The trip was 16 miles long,



This caption is designed to take up an unnecessarily large amount of space.

Oh, and that's a picture of Fort Gilchrist at Alpine Scout Camp

and it was on a path on top of a bunch of cliffs called the Palisades that follow the Hudson River (river between New Jersey and New York).

The actual bike trip was very varied in difficulty. There were a lot of hills, and the up-hills were difficult, but the down-hills were fast, and there was a lot of scenery to look at. Overall, a good trip; if the Troop does a similar bike trip next year, I suggest you all participate.

Article by: Mark Ray, author of *The Scoutmaster's Handbook*
Article sent it by: Mrs. Anouna

On a Wednesday morning last July at the Del-Mar-Va Council's Rodney Scout Reservation, staff members Tommy Golden and Aaron Schilling told a group of campers about their Tuesday—a day they'd barely survived. Among the calamities that befell them were cuts and scratches, blisters, broken bones, nosebleeds, bee stings, both hypothermia and heat stroke (in dizzying succession), and an encounter with an elusive, bear-like squirrel that's distantly related to the jackalope.

Not really. But Tommy and Aaron weren't just telling tales. They were demonstrating, with humor, the serious first-aid techniques they'd used to heal their "wounds." To show how he'd gotten sunburned while lying on the parade ground, Aaron flopped down on the ground like a beached starfish, covering himself completely in dust and dry leaves. When Tommy told how to stop bleeding, he offered this advice for keeping a victim calm: "Say he's bleeding rainbows. That might make him happy."

In between their antics, the young staffers—17 and 15 years old, respectively—gave some essential knowledge that covered every malady listed in the requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks. Appropriate, since their audience consisted of 17 participants in the Scout reservation's popular first-year-camper program called Brownsea. It's named after Brownsea Island, the site of Robert Baden-Powell's first experimental Scout camp in 1907.

As the skit continued, Jeff Bedser looked on with amusement and approval. An assistant Scoutmaster with the Brownsea boys' home unit, Troop 66 in West Windsor, N.J., Bedser shepherds them through their first year in Scouting. Now in his second year at this northeast Maryland camp, Bedser believes in Brownsea. "They come out of this program very well equipped," he said. "They learn the skills well, they enjoy it, and they talk about it for the next year."

That's Brownsea's goal. And to help move Scouts along the trail to First Class, programs like Brownsea can accomplish two critical tasks: integrate new boys into Scouting and get them to the First Class rank within a year, a key indicator of whether they'll eventually become Eagle Scouts.

By understanding what first-year-camper programs offer—and what they don't—you can tailor your troop programs to prepare Scouts for camp and later build on what they've learned there.

"The philosophy is to introduce them to Scouting and ultimately get them excited, passionate, and interested," said Dan Masse, Brownsea's director. "So much of what we do could easily feel like a classroom, and we don't want that at all. We want them to be outside and having fun with their friends, which is what Scouting is all about."

Masse knows firsthand how well the program works. He was a Brownsea participant in 2003 and vividly remembers his own instructor, Will Kramer, who was as loud and fun as Tommy and Aaron. "He was one of the people who made me want to be a Boy Scout," Masse said. "Even when I was a new Scout, I wanted to work here."

Brownsea made a similar impression on Rodney's program director, Matt Keck, when he participated in 1999. "Everyone around me was having a good time, so it was pretty much impossible for me not to have a good time," he said.

But Brownsea is more than just a good time. Like Scouting itself, it's fun with a point—or, maybe two points. The first: help Scouts earn many of the outdoor requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, as well as Swimming and Nature merit badges. The second: expose them to the rest of the Rodney program.

Those two goals neatly merged not long after the first-aid skit ended. Troop 66 Scouts, who called themselves the Shaken Bacon Patrol, were at the camp's pool along with another group of Brownsea participants. Most were pursuing Swimming merit badge requirements, but a handful of others were working with members of the aquatics staff on more basic skills.

While Paige Kramer (Will's younger sister) taught one group the sidestroke, Cameron Delestienne spent nearly an hour helping Jacob Polite learn to float. Near the end of the period, Delestienne told Jacob how far he'd come. "Those first 10 seconds, you were floating," he said. "I wasn't touching you. You were doing O.K."

After class, Delestienne and Paige Kramer explained that helping kids learn to swim is their biggest reward. "Last week we had a kid that I worked with last year in instructional swim who wouldn't jump into the water," Paige said. "I worked with him for two days just to get him in the water. This year, he came back, and he had a blue band [indicating he'd passed the BSA swim test]. I thought that was a good accomplishment."

That's an accomplishment that should lead to others, said veteran staff member Woody Woodruff, who oversees Brownsea as head of the camp's outdoor-skills department. "Hopefully, everyone who comes through here is going to work his way to Eagle Scout," Woodruff said. "Brownsea's just the first step. Here they not only take the first step, but they can see the rest of the staircase."

They also can see Scouts who are ahead of them on that staircase. Brownsea staffers make it a point to learn their Scouts' names, and they've helped many a homesick boy work through his misery. "They have to feel that they have a place both here at camp with us and in Scouting," program director Keck said. "Some of them are still struggling to figure that out."

Brownsea staffers devote mornings to teaching Scoutcraft skills, while the aquatics staff teaches swimming. After lunch, Brownsea and nature staffers team up to teach the Nature merit badge. Then, the participants take part in a round robin of activities that includes CPR, archery, rifle shooting, and open boating.

"If we introduce them to a lot of different activities, it can give them a little bit of direction," Keck said. "Most of them walk off this property thinking, 'I want to take these three or four merit badges next year.' That's what we want. We want them thinking ahead, saying, 'I want to be back here next year.'"

Brownsea does that part of its job so well that first-year campers comprise only about 20 percent of the camp population each week. Rather than give up on summer camp after their first year, Scouts get motivated to return again and again.

Although Brownsea Scouts represent just a small part of the camp population, they are by far the most important part. "When we do scheduling, we try to do Brownsea first so we can make sure that's set," Keck said. "We'll move other things around." Recently, in fact, staffers shifted a Mile Swim practice to create a second evening opportunity for Scouts to work on the clothes-inflation requirement in Swimming merit badge.

That sort of focus makes sense to Woodruff, who noted, "We look at the Brownsea program as the future of Scouting. It's where we build new Scouts." And to build those Scouts, the program intentionally relies on staffers who aren't much older than the Scouts they're teaching. Troop 66 Scoutmaster Mark Lee said these young staffers "recognize that 11-year-old boys are still 11-year-old boys."

The program also relies on word-of-mouth promotion from Scouts who have been through the program. Like Will Davis, a Troop 66 member who completed Brownsea in 2007. "It's a really great program for first-year Scouts," he said. "It lights that fire of Scouting that never really goes out."

By Mr. Galbraith

May 20-22 is the NJ State Police Camporee at their training center in Sea Girt. This is the 3rd time this event is being held and I've attended the inaugural event in 2004 and the second NJSP Camporee in 2007. The event is well organized and has much to offer.

Four merit badges: **Crime Prevention, Emergency Prep, Fingerprinting and Traffic Safety.**

Exhibits and Events:

- National Guard Parachute Team
- State Police Aviation
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Haz Mat Response
- Radiological Unit
- Mobile Command Center
- Tactical Patrol Units
- State Police History and Videos
- CSI Unit
- Mounted Unit - Horses
- Motorcycle Unit
- SWAT
- Scuba
- Bomb Squad
- Armored personnel carrier
- Marine Unit
- K-9 Unit
- FATS
- Polygraph unit
- Dorm and Lab tours
- National Guard Museum
- Live fire demonstrations

A trading post will be set up.

Drawstring packs will be distributed at check-in that include:

- map and schedule
- collectors patch
- T-shirt
- multi tool
- flashlight

Please note that this is a **Class-A Event**. "Be Prepared" to look and act your best. Many of the Troopers are former Scouts and many of those are Eagle Scouts.

We have a reservation for **10 Scouts** on a first come first serve basis. Cost is \$30.00 and must be submitted by **April 18**.

Please feel free to see me with any questions.

Crime Prevention and Public Safety are our themes for the month of May and fits very well with this Camporee.

By Josh

Since this month's topic is bicycling safety, one of the merit badges that you can try to earn is the Cycling merit badge. Of course, to earn this badge, you have to know the safety rules. First of all, you must always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Second of all, you must be aware of your surroundings. Lastly, should you be riding a bicycle at night, wear bright clothing or put a bright object on your bike so that cars can see you from a distance. These are just a few of the safety rules when riding a bicycle. Know the rules and stay safe.

By Efren

This is another short sweet “article” that deals with something important. Scouting is not just attending meetings and dealing with your Senior Patrol (yes, both of us); it also means participating in other Scout activities. While yes, prior commitments such as sports, religious ceremonies, a job (a real one) and other recreational groups sometimes take precedence, you have a commitment as a troop member to be active in your troop. That means sacrificing a weekend of hanging out with your friends to go to the carwash, clean-up, or a campout. We plan to go to a campout once a month because we expect troop members to be active away from meetings as well as during meetings. Of course, if you have a good reason not to go, then you’re fine. But, if you say you have too much homework, are really tired, or just “bored”, then be better at time management, sleep earlier during the weekday, and go to a campout if you really are bored (what we actually do in a campout, unless already planned, is completely up to you scouts, so send in your thoughts your Patrol Leader today!)

Also, attached is a copy of a public service announcement given to all troop members in February. You will all be tested on these within the next month. If you fail, we may decide to halt your rank advancement until you learn and remember these skills. Just because you earned Tenderfoot years ago doesn’t mean you don’t need to know how to tie a Square Knot or say the Scout Oath.

By Mrs. Furgang

Hi everyone. We want to make sure each Scout has a Class B uniform. Class B's are worn to campouts, car washes, summer camp etc. For those of you new to scouting, a Class B uniform is.....a red T-shirt with the troop logo on it.

If you already have one, great. If you don't have one, please email me and let me know what size you need. The troop will provide you with your first one free of charge. (Troop 61 is the best, right?)

If you would like to have a red, hooded sweatshirt with the troop logo on it (optional, but nice to have), please email me with your size. They will eventually cost you \$17 - not a bad deal.

We want to make sure we have these by the May Camporee so please respond as soon as possible.

This is a public service announcement brought to you by your Senior Patrol Leader, Efren Deasis.

I expect that by February 28, 2011 (the last meeting in February), ALL Scouts should be able to do the following things:

Tie the following knots:

Square knot
Bowline
Tautline hitch
Two Half hitches
Clove hitch
Sheet bend
Figure-eight knot
Overhand knot
Slip knot
Timber Hitch

Tie the following lashings:

Square
Tripod

Know how to orient a map

Know how to find the bearing of an object

By March 7, 2011 (the first meeting in March), Scouts should be able to do the following things:

Know how to treat the following first aid cases:

Hypothermia
Hyperthermia
All classes of burns (and differentiate each)
Tick bites
Someone in shock
Signs of a heart attack
Serious bleeding
How to wrap a head bandage, sling, and splint
Puncture wounds

Until those requirements have been satisfied, there are no games to be held during meetings unless planned so by the SPL/ASPL/PLs during the PLC.

Thank you

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Aid Month					1. Alpine Scout Reservation Bike Trip; April Fool's Day	2. Alpine Scout Reservation Bike Trip
3. Alpine Scout Reservation Bike Trip; PLC; New Moon	4.	5.	6.	7.	8. Waxing Crescent; End of Marking Period	9. Efren's Eagle Project Day 2
10. Efren's Eagle Project Day 3	11. First Quarter	12.	13.	14. Waxing Gibbous	15.	16.
17. Palm Sunday; Full Moon	18. No School (yay!)	19. No School (yay!); Passover	20. No School (yay!)	21. No School (yay!)	22. No School (yay!); Good Friday; Earth Day; Waning Gibbous	23.
24. Easter Sunday	25. Last Quarter	26.	27. Administrative Professionals Day; Report Cards Issued	28. Waning Crescent	29.	30. Community Clean-Up; Rutgers Day

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. PLC	2.	3. National Teacher's Day; New Moon	4.	5. Cinco de Mayo	6. Rutgers Spring Flower Fair	7. Rutgers Spring Flower Fair
8. Rutgers Spring Flower Fair; Mother's Day; Waxing Crescent	9.	10.	11. First Quarter	12. Nurse's Day	13.	14. Troop Carwash; Waxing Gibbous
15.	16.	17. Full Moon	18. Progress Reports	19.	20. State Police Camporee	21. State Police Camporee; Armed Forces Day; Waning Gibbous
22. State Police Camporee; National Maritime Day	23. Victoria Day (Canada)	24. Third Quarter	25.	26.	27.	28. Waning Crescent
29.	30. Memorial Day; No School (Yay!)	31.				Public Safety and Crime Prevention Month

June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1. Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins	2. New Moon	3.	4.
5. PLC; World Environment Day	6. Waxing Crescent	7.	8.	9. First Quarter	10.	11. Round Valley Backpacking Hike
12. Round Valley Backpacking Hike; Waxing Gibbous	13. Last Troop Meeting	14. Flag Day	15. Full Moon	16.	17. Half Day	18. Troop Picnic and Court of Honor
19. Father's Day; Waning Gibbous	20. Last day of School; High School Graduation	21. First Day of Summer	22.	23. Third Quarter	24.	25.
26. Waning Crescent	27.	28.	29.	30.		