

# Troop 61 Newsletter

## January 2011

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### **Klondike Derby**

On January 22, Troop 61 is attending the 2011 Mattameechan district Klondike Derby (for those of you who don't know, our district, which used to be called SEMEOS, merged with another district, and now we are called Mattameechan). Because of this new merge, the Klondike could be considerably more crowded than in previous years.

The Klondike Derby is a camporee in which Troops compete at many different stations. Not all of the stations are known as of now, but stations in the past have included flag raising, fire building, knot tying, lashings, first aid, map & compass, devil's canyon, semaphore, sled inspection, and a sled race at the end. In previous years, the troop has done very well at fire building, and not so great everywhere else. This year, we're working to change that. At the last campout to KMSR, scouts raised a flag outside the cabin, and practiced some new knots. Everyone's hoping to do a little better this year.

At the last Roundtable Meeting, some details of the Klondike were determined. First, scouts should have a partial uniform on under their winter coat (shirt, neckerchief, slide). Scout pants and hat are not required. Scouts should know what is in the sled, and make sure if something is taken out, it goes back in the same place. The reason for this is that inspections will occur at every station, not just the sled inspection station. Scouts should have good spirit and cooperation, and should listen to the scout in charge.

Details of some of the events were also determined. Flag raising is no longer a timed event (it might not ever have been, but everyone thinks it is). The quality of the knot tying is what counts. They will be checking that no knots are pre-tied. For the fire building station, troops will have to cook a grilled cheese sandwich. Cotton, lint, and lumber are prohibited. Natural rope is allowed for use as a fire starter, as are needles and pinecones (though I wouldn't recommend those, they put out the fire because they are too wet). Once again,

timing is not the deciding factor except in the case of a tie. Troops are graded on knowledge, skill, and spirit. For the map & compass course, there will be at least 4 different maps, so don't just follow the group in front of you. Finally, for the sled race, carrying the sled will result in disqualification. Good luck Troop 61!

## **Coldwater Conservation School**

By Mrs. Anouna

The NJ School of Conservation in Sussex County will be the host site for an exciting Coldwater Conservation School being offered in 2011 by the NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and the NJ State Council of Trout Unlimited and its supporting chapters. The School will be held from June 23 – 26 and is open to youth who will be between the ages of 11 and 14 at the time of the program. The goal of the School is to foster a knowledge and appreciation of trout and the coldwater habitats on which they depend. The cost of the Coldwater Conservation School is only \$200.00, which includes food, lodging and equipment for the entire 4 days and 3 nights. Applications are due no later than April 1, 2011. Students accepted into the School will be notified by the end of April. Information about the Coldwater Conservation School including the official application can be found at:

[http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/conservation\\_school.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/conservation_school.htm). Information about Trout Unlimited can be found at: <http://www.njtu.org/> and the NJ School of Conservation at <http://csam.montclair.edu/njsoc/>. Questions about the School should be directed to Jessica Griglak at (908)-637-4125 or [jessica.griglak@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:jessica.griglak@dep.state.nj.us).

## **Random News from the Scoutmaster**

By none other than, the Scoutmaster (Mr. Galbraith)

The fire building test at the Klondike Derby will be to grill a cheese sandwich. To this end I picked up a sandwich making utensil for camp fires. It has long handles and a two piece container to hold the sandwich over the fire. For tinder I will harvest the reeds that grow out by Keystone Park. We used this for tinder last year and it works very well. I suggest Georgia Fatwood for fuel for the fire. If anyone has some please bring it to our meeting before the Klondike. This will be at the Firehouse on Ryder's Lane on the 17th. We'll be meeting there as Lawrence Brook will be unavailable. We'll meet outdoors and raise the flag pole. See next ramble....

The flag pole we are to raise must be of natural material. Last year we tried birch spars. I feel that these were attractive but too heavy. Today I came up with a perfect solution. Bamboo. It is straight, strong and light weight. Eagle Scout Andrew Galbraith was able to harvest 8' and 9' lengths for the Troop. We'll be able to test them out in advance of the Klondike. The surface of Bamboo is pretty smooth. We may need to rough it up a bit to give our lashings better purchase. A new station was added to the Klondike for Map Symbols. We'll need to study these at one of our meetings. You may need to do some homework to study them in greater detail on your own. Another station known only as a "Fun Station" was also added. I guess we'll know more about this as we get closer to the event.

## Calendar (January & February)

	1/8/201	
Saturday	1	Joyce Kilmer Merit Badge Fair
	1/10/20	
Monday	11	Pack 61 Webelos/Klondike Prep; Save the Eagles Day
	1/11/20	Amelia Earhart Day; National Human Trafficking Awareness
Tuesday	11	Day
	1/15/20	
Saturday	11	Makara Sankranthi
	1/16/20	
Sunday	11	Feast of the Santo Niño
	1/17/20	
Monday	11	No School hold outdoor KD prep
	1/18/20	
Tuesday	11	at Firehouse in street clothes
Wednesd ay	1/19/20 11	Cttee Meeting, Nativity 7:30
	1/22/20	
Saturday	11	Klondike at Thompson's Park; SAT Testing at EBHS
	1/24/20	
Monday	11	Follow up PT at this meeting
	1/25/20	
Tuesday	11	Burns night
Wednesd ay	1/26/20 11	Republic Day; Australia Day
	1/31/20	
Monday	11	Auckland Anniversary
	2/1/201	
Tuesday	1	National Freedom Day
Wednesd ay	2/2/201 1	Groundhog Day; St. Brigid's Day
	2/3/201	
Thursday	1	Chinese New Year
	2/4/201	
Friday	1	Ski Trip to Blue Mtn PA; Independence of Sri Lanka
	2/5/201	
Saturday	1	Ski Trip to Blue Mtn PA; 1917 Constitution of Mexico
	2/6/201	
Sunday	1	PLC at Nativity 7:00; Waitangi Day
	2/8/201	
Tuesday	1	Prešeren Day; Boy Scout Day
	2/11/20	
Friday	11	National Foundation Day
	2/12/20	
Saturday	11	Merit Badge Fair; Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
	2/13/20	
Sunday	11	Merit Badge Fair
Monday	2/14/20	Valentine's Day

	11	
	2/15/20	
Tuesday	11	Flag Day of Canada
Wednesd	2/16/20	
ay	11	Ctte Meeting, Nativity 7:30
	2/18/20	
Friday	11	No School
	2/21/20	No School: President's Day; International Mother Language
Monday	11	Day
	2/22/20	
Tuesday	11	George Washington's Birthday
	2/24/20	
Thursday	11	Flag Day of Mexico
	2/25/20	
Friday	11	Philippine Revolution of 1986
	2/26/20	
Saturday	11	Liberation Day (Kuwait)
	2/27/20	
Sunday	11	Dominican Republic Independence

# Troop Website

By Mr. Weibel

If you forgot our calendar of outings, or if you want to see pictures of recent camping trips or even Eagle Projects, you should go to:  
<http://www.pack61eastbrunswick.org/Troop61/troop61.html>. The Troop Newsletters are also posted there.

## Editor's Notes II

You know, I call them notes, but it's really a run-on paragraph of my ramblings. Actually, this time I did make a list of what I wanted to say. Oh, yeah, and this is Editor's Notes II because it's just like the original Editor's Notes, except that it has different words and stuff, so I gave it a different name (so when you people talk about how awesome they are, you can distinguish between them. It'd kind of be weird, after I've written another twelve of these, to start talking about one of them, and then realize that no one knows which one you're talking about, and we don't like those awkward situations. Does build character though, teach yourself to work through major embarrassments, anyway...). First off, I want to apologize for this newsletter being a week late. I was going to tell everyone at the Court of Honor to send me articles, and forgot, then I was going to e-mail everyone during winter break, and I forgot...twice. Had I asked for everything earlier I might have been able to add something about the Merit Badge Fair, but that might be mentioned next newsletter, we'll see. Second thing, some of you might have noticed the lack of colors other than black (if you did, then thank you, but I seriously don't expect anyone to notice, no offence intended, it's just that it's a completely random unimportant piece of useless information, so why would you notice?). I have no idea why I did this. When I was making the title, I picked a word art with only black, and then I decided that the whole newsletter would be only black. I guess it's saving color ink or something like that. One thing I did notice that was kind of weird while making this was Mr. G's article. He wrote the title, and put in the thing about rambling (Mr. G, if you're reading this, it's not a bad thing, I actually think it's a great title...nothing bad meant there either). Calendar. You know, I always thought it was spelled "Calender" but apparently Word says I'm wrong. Yeah so I added a bunch of random holidays to the calendAR. The best one I think is "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day." I read that the first time and started laughing for at least a minute. And don't ask me how to pronounce the one on February 8<sup>th</sup>, because I have no idea. One thing I noticed was that (and I probably knew this, but I wasn't sure) President's Day represents a bunch of Presidents' birthdays, but only two presidents' birthdays are even close to that day (Washington and Lincoln). The other two people who have birthdays near then are Benjamin Franklin and Martin Luther King, neither of which were presidents (though if King wasn't shot, he might've been elected president. Then there wouldn't be all this crap about Obama. Apologies to all you people who like Obama, it's not that I don't like him, it's just that everyone hated Bush, a republican, so they elected a democrat. Now, everyone hates Obama, a democrat. My guess is, if they elect another republican after Obama, they're going to hate him too. At some point we need to elect someone that the entire country doesn't hate). Ok, I'm running out of space on the page. Last thing: for those of you that have actually read this far, my first guess would be that you actually care about reading the newsletter. If that is the case, then please, by all means, support it. Send in articles, convince others to, it doesn't matter if you're some random parent, a scout's sibling, a friend of the family twice removed, just send an article. Thank you.