

# TROOP 629

## **Newsletter** **AUGUST 2005**

### ***Hot Topics in this Edition***

August 8: (7:15 p.m.) Troop Meeting

August 11 (7:30 p.m.) RT and OA Meeting

August 14 ( 1:00 p.m.) Den Chief Training

August 15: SCOUT YEAR OFFICIALLY STARTS

August 15 (7:15 p) Troop Meeting and Board of Review / First Day of School

August 18 (7:00 to 8:00p) Patrol Leaders Meeting

August 19 to 21<sup>st</sup> : Back to the basics – Lake Allatoona outdoor adventure and FISHING!

August 21 (4:00 to 6:00) Eagle COH

August 22 (7:15p) Troop Meeting

August 25: Life to Eagle Clinic and Board of Review

August 29: (7:15p) Troop Meeting

August 29: Flower Sales Begin

August 29: Court of Honor and Chris Davies' Eagle Ceremony

September 1: Bring your appetite – POPCORN SALES BEGIN

September 4: (6:00) Troop Committee Meeting

September 5: LABOR DAY

### ***SEA BASE 2005 a HUGE SUCCESS!***

<http://www.sailingshipcharter.com/recent.asp?gallery=137&pic=5>



ALL ACTIVITIES FOR 2005 and 2006 are posted at [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)

### ***Special Announcements:***

#### ***Storage Needed***

We are looking for FREE storage space. Preferably a 10X10 space nearby where we can store the patrol boxes when they are not in use. Currently we are being charged a fee and we are hoping there may be some contacts within Troop 629 where we can rent space, free of charge, for perhaps a year or so. If you have any contacts, please forward to Wendy Kraemer, [wlkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wlkraemer@bellsouth.net).

#### ***Gabe Unger's Seeking Assistance with BOOK COLLECTION***

Gabe is collecting gently used and new books for his bar-mitzvah project. These books will be donated to a literacy program to help underprivileged children learn to read on level. They will also be able to keep the book that they are given to read. It would be appreciated if you could donate your 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade books. Gabe will collect all donations at the end of Monday meetings until October. Please start bringing books at next week's meeting. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this worthy cause.



#### ***Scoutmaster Minute, by Scoutmaster Fran Gillis***

Busy summer coming to a close and a lot of scouts have had some good adventures. Looking forward to the next scouting year, all our events are laid out on the calendars posted on our web site. I would like to take a moment and talk about commitment. The scouting program is not just about showing up "sometimes". The real value is gained by a vigorous dose of active participation and that is one of the reasons that an eagle award is recognized so many places. Scouting is just not another sport league that meets a few months and then your off to something else. Scouting usually means you have been a member for many years of *progressive growth towards a long term vision* with many goals along the way to be met and accomplished by the individual. Making the commitment means at times scouting is number one in your life for decisions besides school and constantly making it second best is not what is expected. A clear "leadership" development is part of the program and each in his own way accomplishes these tasks but lately the scouts have not been doing the job to their best ability. They have been just getting by. It's not about wearing a patch but actually performing the task associated with the position. To get the most of scouting you do truly have to give into the programs and events as well to get the value out. Scouting is a team effort and when many do not perform, do not show up and do not fully participate the entire effort suffers. So while we do not demand you always select a scouting event first over other activities many need to really make an effort to actually include more scouting activities first this year.

Our scouting year schedule starts up full time August 15<sup>th</sup> with **a full uniform and regular agenda**. Note we now meet in the South Hall of Mt Pisgah. Next Troop outing is our annual back to basics weekend Aug 19-21 at Allatoona. Flyers are on our web site and available at the meetings. Sign ups are due the 15<sup>th</sup>! Looking for some adults with motor boats to help on Aug 20<sup>th</sup> at Allatoona for the afternoon with waterskiing, fishing and just boating activities.

## **Troop Outings - Overnight adventures!**



**NEXT Troop outing.....**

**Lake Adventure & Fishing Trip at Lake Allatoona**

**When:** Aug 19-21, 2005

**Who:** For all Troop 629 registered scouts

**Depart:** Mt Pisgah Fri. 6:30 PM Aug 19

**Return:** Sun. 3:30 PM Aug 21

**Cost:** **\$27 by August 15 Troop Meeting**

*For more details contact your patrol leader, then senior patrol leader or Scoutmaster*

### **EMAIL REQUEST-**

*Please send all new or revised scout email addresses to Mr. Ruggles, communication director for Troop 629 at [joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com](mailto:joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com) -*

### **SEA BASE 2006**

We still need one additional Trained Leader for our Sea Base trip in April of 2006 (Fulton County School Spring Break). Those who have signed on for a week of sailing, sun and fun, please make sure your \$100.00 deposit is in ASAP. If you would like to attend Sea Base but are not yet trained, there are ITOLS and SALT training in September 2005. Please step up and assist us so we can send 2 crews to Sea Base in 2006. For further information, please contact John DiPietro at [jddipietro@dir-law.com](mailto:jddipietro@dir-law.com) or call at 404-644-6539 (cell) or 770-667-3414 (home).

### **Want to travel? ...But your wallet is light?**

For all scouting activities the Troop has set up a scholarship fund to help any individual who may just not be capable to participate at any particular time or event through a service hour trade off agreement with Committee Chair know you if you have any individual needs. Our goal is not to deny any scout an opportunity they truly want to participate in. The high adventure bases and camps also normally run scholarship applications for those various events, just ask us for the forms if help is needed for a particular event. **The High Adventure** bases and camps also normally have scholarship applications available for those individual events. Just ask the Scoutmaster for the form if help is needed for a particular event.

## **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS .... BE SOMEBODY!**

**Rank Advancement - Congratulations to all!**

**April, May, June Advancements**

**Rank Advancements (July)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Class** - John Briski, Blake Cotney

**Life** - Stevie McHugh

**Next Board of Review (BOR) - Monday, AUGUST 15**

All Scouts must have their Scoutmaster Conference before signing up for their BOR with Mrs. Smith. Remember: Wear your Class A uniform and bring your Scout handbook to your BOR.

**Save the Date: Next Court of Honor - Monday, AUGUST 29**

**Check Out Merit Badge University**

The Merit Badge Calendar offers many merit badge opportunities. Scouts follow the links to download Registration Forms and Merit Badge fliers. The Merit Badge Calendar is updated as new merit badge opportunities become available. Check out Merit Badge University at: <http://www.meritbadge.info/>.

**Den Chief Training      Sunday August 14th, 2005**

Attention all Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairs. Den Chief training will be held on Sunday August 14th, from 1:00PM until 6:00PM. This training is being held early so your troops can get Den Chiefs trained and installed in Cub Scout Packs by September 1, 2005. Did you know that a Den Chief is your troop's best ambassador to those Cub Scout Webelos you are all hungry for? Did you know that we only have about 8 trained Den Chiefs active in our district? That number is a little embarrassing considering the number of active troop we have. Den Chiefs are a special kind of junior leader because they are valuable to both their troop and a Cub Scout Pack. In the troop they are an active member of a patrol, fill a troop leadership position and are an excellent ambassador and recruiter to a Cub Scout Pack for his troop. In the Cub Scout den, the Den Chief is a valuable tool for the Den Leader is teaching the cubs about scouting skills and what is like to be a Boy Scout. This is a great opportunity to get your scouts trained and placed into a Pack for 2005-2006.

Scouts must be first class and obtain SM approval before registering. Registration on line at <http://www.cdbsa.org/Training/DenChiefSignUp.html>

Recommended requirements for a Den Chief are:

- Boy Scout 1 Year
- First Class Rank
- Recommended by Scoutmaster
- Enjoy Working with Cub Scouts

## **Merit Badge Reminder from Scout Master Gillis**

Scouts are still coming forward to work on a merit badge *WITHOUT* reading the whole MB book from cover to cover. This is not a negotiable and it doesn't matter where the MB was started or with who. To complete the summer camp merit badges or any other follow the simple rules. Read the book from cover to cover. Bring any completed paperwork to a meeting or merit badge help night and coordinate an approved counselor from the scoutmaster. Sit down with the counselor and explain, show or complete the requirements as detailed. Its not about a memory test – it is about comprehension and covering the material as stated.

The second Tuesday of every month the SM will be available at the Mount Pisgah Rm A017 from 6-7 PM for those who need extra help with merit badge requirements or advancement.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND OUR POLICY: TROOP MEETINGS ARE FOR GROUP AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND NOT GENERALLY FOR MERIT BADGE TIME. THERE IS TO BE NO MERIT BADGE WORK DURING PATROL MEETING TIME, INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND COMPETITION TIMES. THE ONLY EXCEPTION ON MONDAY'S IS THAT SCOUTS CAN OPT TO WORK ON MERIT BADGES DURING GAME TIME.

## **Order of the Arrow**

Every month on the second Thursday there is a district OA gathering OA members can attend. See your OA rep for details.: <http://www.cdbsa.org/Pages/OA.htm>

## **Scout Merit Badge Opportunities**

### **Check Out Merit Badge University**

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<http://www.meritbadge.info>

### **SERVICE PROJECTS:**

The Troop frequently has **last minute service project opportunities** for scouts to participate in. Keep an eye out for them weekly, look on the bulletin board and pick up the flyers that are usually at the meeting.

### **Upcoming Troop Board of Reviews: Monday August 15th**

After a scout completes his Scoutmaster conference, he must notify Mrs. Smith, Troop Advancement Chairperson, that he is ready for the next BOR. *Reminder:* Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.

## **ADULTS – PARENTS TROOP 629 NEEDS YOU!**



All adults are required by this troop to be properly trained for the event they are participating in. From being properly prepared just for a weekend outing to getting all the specialized training for high adventure now is the time to get yourself into those classes so you can help be ready on time.

Our adults are encouraged to participate in one of the many training opportunities available for scouting. A great way to get started is by completing the online Boy Scout Fast Start or Youth Protection Training located at the Chattahoochee web site via a link from our troop's web site: [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org). To participate as an adult leader in the troop on overnight camping, you must complete Youth Protection Training, Fast Start and review the Troop 629 Adult Guide.

Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members must complete the above training and New Leaders Essentials, SALT, ITOLS and/or Committee Training. Information on these training opportunities are available on the Chattahoochee District web site. To participate in High Adventure, leaders must complete all the above along with special classes such as CPR, FA, safety afloat, and safe swim.

- ♦ NOTE: For Youth Protection and Fast Start, print from web site your completion form page and pass to the unit's training chairperson. When you have completed any of the BSA training, please contact Linda Dembowski at [lindahd@ofsoptics.com](mailto:lindahd@ofsoptics.com) or call her at 770-552-1472 or/ and to volunteer

### **Adult volunteers**

A lot of behind the scene necessary support in running an active Troop comes from many adults giving special efforts in their own way. If you are one of the adults that just isn't able to lock in a routine support directly with the program other support needs are there waiting. Contact our committee chair for a list of those opportunities to help the evolving dynamic program.

On all trips we request adults clearly state their intentions if providing transportation support with the number of passengers that you can handle in the vehicle being used.

There are currently several KEY positions which are in need of new volunteers!!! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Linda Dembowski at [lindahd@ofsoptics.com](mailto:lindahd@ofsoptics.com) or call her at 770-552-1472 to volunteer.

## ***REIDY and WHITE share lessons from the Sea:***

**By David White :**

On June 24, 2005 I started my sea base experience with my fellow scouters. We took a road trip to Ft. Lauderdale to start our adventure. From there we flew on two small air craft to Marsh Harbour Int. Airport. Then we boarded our vessel and immediately started sailing. Our captain's name was Captain Thomas and our "first mate" was his wife, Admiral Linda. They lived on their boat, the Ciganka, which means Little Gypsy Girl in Czechoslovakian. They taught the crew and I everything we needed to know how to sail including the history of many nautical terms and how we use them today like knots, a unit of speed devised from counting how many knots passed through sailor's fingers while the vessel was in motion.

The captain on our first day of sailing divided our crew into four smaller crews that was in charge of a sail(s). Myself, David Martinez, Alex Sevy, Grayson Cotney, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Martinez and, James Padgett were on the jibb/staysail crew (the two in the front). Tim Reidy, Pete Knoetgen, Michael Benjamin, Neal Ruggles, and Mr. Gillis were on the mainsail crew (the big one in the middle). The last sail that steered the ship known as the spanker sail had Greg Mitchell, Greg Yakrus, Steven Furick and, Mr. Furick on that crew.

We were all taught our specific jobs to make our sails work correctly. The first day of sailing was a little rough but after that we really started to become proficient at our tasks. Besides from sailing we stopped and visited local settlements like Man-of-War Cay and Hope Town. When we were not mingling with the locals you could usually find us snorkeling in the reefs and observing wildlife like sea cucumbers or fishing off of small rocky islands with Cuban yo yo's (or at least trying to). We even sailed past Gary Larson's house, the guy that writes the Far Side comics.

After we finished our 60 mile plus journey we stopped in Orlando, Florida for a day of fun at Universal Theme Parks. Sea base was really fun from sleeping on the deck to raising the sails I enjoyed the trip and it truly is a high adventure.

## ***REIDY and WHITE share lessons from the Sea:***

**Sea Base- An Experience of a Lifetime, By Tim Reidy:** Wow, where do I start, Sea Base was really great. It started, as all great 629 trips do, with a road trip. The Martinez-mobile teamed up with the new and improved Gillis-Mobile to provide a smooth entertainment filled ride. After a one night stay at a motel, the crew drove down to Ft. Lauderdale where a private jet wait to fly us to Marsh Harbour, Great Abaco Island, Bahamas. After a short rainstorm and a quick taxi ride we boarded the 83 foot Ciganka.

Soon we meet the owners of the schooner, Captain Thomas and the Admiral (his wife). In no time we were motoring to our first destination for the night. On the way we stopped for short swim test.

The first two days were basically learning days. The crew learned how to raise the sails, use a bathroom at sea (although some struggled with some of the concepts throughout the week), and tie some sailor knots. The Captain had lots of interesting stories and facts that he shared with us. For instance he told the crew about how it took them 9 years to construct the boat from scratch. Each crew member was assigned to a sail on the boat. I was assigned to the mainsail, the biggest sail on the boat. By the end of the week, the crew could be under full sail in 5 minutes! Luckily for us, there were strong winds for great sailing all week. In addition to great sailing, the crew took 5 or 6 dives. We explored beautiful tropical reefs filled with colorful fish, sting rays, and barracuda. On one day we even hiked across an island to a reef where we meet a venture crew on a boat similar to ours.

The crew even got to go into two port towns. **The** first was a very mellow town where we visited Lola's bakery. At the bakery we ate Lola's homemade delicious cinnamon rolls. Later that day we visited Hopetown where we climbed a lighthouse, ate a seafood dinner, and enjoyed a drink by the beach. The week went by very quickly. We ended the trip with a walk around Marsh Harbor. After scrubbing the boat down the next day we started our trip home. A nice bonus to the trip was a trip to Universal Studios in Orlando.

Overall the trip went very smoothly. I recommend the Bahamas Sea Base trip highly over the Florida Sea Base. This trip included five more dives, better port cities, and a better Captain than the last trip.



## Monthly reminders



### **Patrol Leaders Council**

Once a month our SPL leads his PLC to formulate the plans for meetings and activities. Changes and or improvements are discussed at that time and all scouts should be making sure their representative is up to date on issues, concerns and program request. Next PLC is set for **August 18**. Another reason to check the Troop bulletin board or web site to keep the ever dynamic and fluid scouting calendar up to

date.

### **LET'S GO KROGERING – TURN YOUR GROCERY SHOPPING INTO CASH FOR TROOP 629!**

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Kroger Gift Card program is the largest fundraiser for Troop 629. Just by grocery shopping at Kroger you can support the Scouts of Troop 629. This fundraiser does not cost anything above your donation – the amount you donate to the Troop is the amount you receive in the Kroger Gift Card. (Example: Donate \$100 monthly to Troop 629 and you receive a monthly Kroger Gift Card in the amount of \$100).

[In May, our Troop received \$294.25; in June - \$298.00; in July - \$285.50, and in August - \$271.00.] We have lost several participants due to family moves, graduates, etc. We need more participants!

Thanks to all of the families currently participating (35 families)! If you would like to increase your monthly amount, please contact Susan Cook at (678) 297-7766.

If you are not currently participating, please consider this painless and easy fundraising opportunity – for additional information/questions and to sign up, please contact Susan Cook at (678) 297-7766.

### **Lending Closet**

The Troop maintains a scout uniform exchange or drop off point for all to use. With growth spurts for young scouts it's hard at times to keep them outfitted for activities. Bring in your used or any pieces you come across and add to closet and feel free to pick up an item at any meeting. Ask for other items that may be store at another of our locations.

### **Uniforms**

At all troop activities a designated uniform is specified. Also during Troop meetings the proper wear of the uniform shirt during the school year is expected and all great scouts are not without their handbook to make a complete uniform. Proper uniform includes your shirt tucked in and closed toe shoes! Please dress for the weather as some activities are outside.

REMINDER: It is the BSA insurance policy that no open toe shoes to be worn on any activity. This includes meetings, camping and water activities. The only exception is flip flops for showers but sandals are a no go for any activity we do including weekly meetings. **Scouts will not be allowed to participate if they show up with open toe shoes.** Once school is out we will conduct meetings with our Troop Red Field T-shirt as the primary uniform throughout the summer.

### ***Patrol food items***

Non Perishable (left over) from camping trips that can be reused need to be turned in with the patrol gear at the end of each trip and are stored by the troop in special patrol containers. This will help cut back on some cost for future trips and eliminate some waste now ongoing. A scout buying food will get a menu to use with a budget to follow. It's important to follow the list and items/quantities specified as the menu has been planned for patrol guest and other program considerations. Purchase slips are turned into the Troop Treasurer for reimbursement after each trip by the patrol scout grubmaster for that trip.

### ***CALENDAR AND WEB SITE INFORMATION***

The Troop has its annual calendar published and it's available for all on the web site

[www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)

Our Chattahoochee District ([www.cdbsa.org](http://www.cdbsa.org)) and Atlanta Area Council ([www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org)) have web sites as well where additional information is also available concerning upcoming events.

**Please note that Troop meeting start time at 7:15 and closing at 8:45 PM on Mondays.**

Please show up on time so we can start the program on time.

Keep an eye out for new opportunities that crop up for special events and classes being offered. Details can be found on the bulletin board for emergency disaster exercises looking for scouts to participate in, special merit badge sessions for railroad MB and nature events. Those kind of events are open to all scouts but generally are not organized for attendance as a Troop activity. Normally an individual parent takes on the lead to help arrange rides and details.

***Keep us updated on changes to phone numbers, address and e-mail accounts.***

***Communication channels works best when everyone  
is getting and giving timely information.***

***“View the bulletin board and troop web site for latest details.”***

**Questions concerning this publication?**

**Joe and Neal Ruggles**

**Receive this by email, just send your email address to [joe@RealtyExecutivesUSA.com](mailto:joe@RealtyExecutivesUSA.com)**

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