

# TROOP 629

## **Newsletter** **October 2005**

**This newsletter is intended for scouts and their families.  
Please assist us in sharing this information with other parents  
and scouts.**

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

**October 1: Order of the Arrow Adventure Camp Bert Adams, SR**  
**October 1: Fall Family Fun Fest**  
**October 2: (6:00) Troop Committee Meeting**  
**October 3: (7:15 to 9:00) Troop Meeting**  
**October 7 -9: Duty to God encampment**  
**October 8 - 10: Ft. Clinch trip - CANCELLED**  
**October 10: No school - GAME NIGHT**  
**October 11: Merit Badge HELP night**  
**October 12: New Adult Leader Orientation**  
**October 13: RT and OA meeting**  
**October 14 - 16: Woodbadge Course 2, Part 2**  
**October 15: Merit Badge University**  
**October 17: Board of Review / Troop Meeting**  
**October 20: Patrol Leader Council**  
**October 21: Fall flower sale pick up**  
**October 24: Troop Meeting – Newtown GAME NIGHT**  
**October 27: Life to Eagle Clinic / Board of Review**  
**October 29: Scout Day at Atlanta Motor Speedway**  
**October 30: End of Daylight Savings Time**  
**October 31: Troop Meeting – Popcorn Sales End – Halloween**  
**November 4 -6 : Order of the Arrow Ordeal – Altoona**  
**November 5: Scouter Academy**  
**November 6: Troop Committee Meeting**  
**November 7: Troop Meeting / Elections Patrol Leaders**  
**November 8: Merit Badge Help NIGHT**

## ***Special Announcements:***

### ***BBQ Dinner a huge success!***

*During our last Committee Meeting which was open to all adults, we had a fabulous BBQ dinner. We want to thank both Mitch Yakrus and Jerry Sevy and their families for proving a delicious meal. Thank you!*

### ***It's RE-CHARTER TIME!***

Attention All Troop 629 Adults/Scouts:

It is that time of year to charter for next year. Please bring a check for \$65 to the troop meeting and check to see if the information we have for you is correct. Membership will run through the month of October beginning on October 2nd on Monday nights.

### ***NATIONAL GUARD COOKIE DRIVE IS ALIVE!***

We are having a cookie drive for the 48th GA National Guard Troops!! But this time, we're also collecting paperback books (new or nearly new please). Like last time, the cookies must be sugar, peanut butter, or other non-meltable cookies (please - nothing with chocolate). The cookies should be packaged in Ziploc bags. Home-baked cookies are VERY welcome. All cookies and books will be packaged for shipping on Wednesday, October 26 (exact details for drop-off will be announced) - or can be brought to the October 24 scout meeting. Books must be paperback, adult reading (ages 18 or older), and can also be brought either to the Oct 24 meeting, or the Oct 26 package date. Monetary donations would also be greatly appreciated to purchase the newest paperback titles. If you have any questions, please call Joe Di Pietro at 770-667-3414 or e-mail at [yankeefan5@bellsouth.net](mailto:yankeefan5@bellsouth.net), or e-mail Dr. Leslie Cotney at [lcotney@mindspring.com](mailto:lcotney@mindspring.com). We appreciate all of your support, and hope you will be able to help with this project.

### ***KRAEMER'S CORNER*** (Troop Committee Chairman, Wendy Kraemer)

Scouters Academy - Classes for adults - see website for additional information.  
[www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)

Volunteers needed for Troop Meeting on Monday, October 24th which will be held at Newtown Park. A couple of volunteers are needed to supply Hot Cocoa and Caramel Apples. This is a tradition and the Scouts love it! Please contact Wendy Kraemer at [WLKraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:WLKraemer@bellsouth.net) if you would like to help out.

Equipment - Thank you to both Cliff Brown and Mike Deaton. Cliff Brown has volunteered to be the Equipment Chair and Mike Deaton organized a couple of work crews (Scouts/Adults) last month to clean/mend equipment. This was quite a job!

## **POPCORN SALES KICK OFF!**

Hopefully by now your son has told you about the popcorn kickoff that took place at the Aug 15 troop meeting. If he didn't, don't fret, Mr. Rocchio is here to save the day!

**Monday Troop Meetings** – See me (Mr. Rocchio) to get your popcorn packet and begin selling immediately. As of last meeting 34 scouts have received their packages, but that leaves many more that haven't. If you are selling, make sure to pick up a packet from Mr Rocchio.

## **Fall Flower Sale**

Begins in the first part of September- Get ready for ACTION! Here are some preliminary dates:

Fall Flower Sale pick up date will be 10/21 (5:30 - 7:30 pm)

Spring Flower Sale pick up date will be 4/14 (5:30 - 7:30 pm)

For more information please contact Kathleen Narayanan Tel: (770) 740-2211 ext. 302

Cell: (404) 735-2731, [kathleen@avalonintl.com](mailto:kathleen@avalonintl.com)



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

Fall is a busy set of months for all. Dividing up a scout's time between other activities and those needed to be considered active in the Troop is a delicate balance. Scouting is well recognized as a great factor in determining if an individual is going to be successful in college, the military or his first full time employment because of the variety of experiences a scout undertakes as well as a planned long term successful execution of a set of standard goals. Make sure you are doing at least the minimum to still be considered actively participating in more than just unit meetings. If you haven't been on a unit overnight outing in over a year you may just reconsider that the program is no longer for you as you are not meeting the goals of an active scout. However, it is easy to stay involved as there are so many activities planned it is hard not to select scouting as one of your events. You may just need to 'DO'. It's really just a matter of choice and some scouts need to start making scouting activities their choice for the month rather than another to be considered still successful.

## **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) -

## **OCTOBER OUTINGS**

A variety of activities are ongoing – check the calendar for updates and flyers for details. October troop outing is to Ft Clinch, FL – HAS BEEN CANCELLED due to lack of interest. Merit badge weekends are also coming up and looking forward to November we have an AT trail backpacking trip being planned. Its also our meeting night before Halloween at Newtown Park on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> and of course flower and popcorn fund raisers are ongoing.

## **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 you \$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).

## **Northern Tier 2006**

Troop is looking into a Canadian bound backwoods canoeing adventure with Northern Tier High adventure program next summer. Will you be First Class and at least 13 – if so, are you interested in going. We need to know interest soon to lock in a trip so go to the web site or get a form at the meeting and let us know your intentions.

## **Short on Cash, but love to travel?**

For all scouting activities the Troop has set up a scholarship fund to help any individual who may just not 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!**

#### **September Rank Advancements**

**Tenderfoot** - Rob Mann, Robby Mitchell

**1<sup>st</sup> Class** - James Deaton

**Star** - Will Chesson

## ***Next Board of Review (BOR) - Monday, OCTOBER 17***

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.

## ***Scout Merit Badge Opportunities***

- NESA Advancement Day - Mark your calendar for Saturday, NOVEMBER 19, 2005, which is tentatively set as the next NESA Advancement Day. Details to follow soon.
- Check out Merit Badge University at: <http://www.meritbadge.info/>. 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.

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## ***Life Scouts from Scout Master Gillis***

All you need to know about moving up and completing your Eagle is on our web site and the Atlanta Area Council site as well. It's never too early to start but it is too late to finish if you wait to put together the necessary documents at the last minute. Plan ahead, space your time (better yet do it now so you will not feel under pressure when you begin running out of time). We have over 20 Life scouts now and so few working to knock out a little at a time. We certainly have procrastination running rapid throughout these scouts so whoever is bottling it and passing along please pass it to someone else besides our scouts.

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

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".

Reading the whole MB book from cover to cover is required. 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 C006 from 6-7 PM for those who need extra help with merit badge requirements or advancement. The next one is scheduled for Sep 13th.

## ***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***

### ***SERVICE PROJECTS and Special Events:***

The Troop frequently has last minute service project opportunities and their scouting activities 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 October 17***

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.

## 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 **October 20, 2005**. 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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