

# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

*November 2006*

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

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## **Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis**

Congratulations are in order AGAIN (yes it looks look a de-ja vu from the last two months) for two more of our newest Eagle scouts – Pete Knoetgen and Dan Tinsley both passed their District Boards of Review October 26th and join the rolls of over 42 prior Troop 629 scouts who have attained scouting's highest youth advancement award. Look for their Courts of Honor for the official presentation of their Eagle Medal in the future.

The measure of success: While becoming an Eagle scout is certainly a great indicator of possible future success, it is not a guarantee and not the only path. Many successful people come from a variety of backgrounds and scouting is just one of the proven paths that has helped many learn the true lessons of good citizenship, instilling quality character traits and the focusing a strong moral and ethical compass in their lives. We have many who have gone all the way but just as many who have grasped the right stuff and will go on without the badge to be just as successful because they have really understood and blossomed into great young men. Troop 629 has had a strong and committed behind-the-scenes group of adults who have helped bring all the right pieces and experiences together for these young future leaders. Each time I get to congratulate another Eagle scout I am in essences congratulating us all because its for all the support they have received not just from a few but the whole team effort into a total experience for every scout in that we are still offering the possibilities for all.

So congratulations again to our newest Eagles and to everyone on the team for helping bring this about yet again for the third month in a row for the sets of Eagles we have added to our roles. This addition brings this years total to a whopping ten. And for those on the trail ... just come up with a plan and stick with it.

Did you know that some of our recent Eagles are moving along quite well in their future endeavors: An Oxford scholar in England, two more study abroad in Italy and another in Spain, many attend schools throughout the country such as Penn State, Notre Dame, Brown, Texas A&M, Tulane, Duquesne, Duke and of course a slew of Georgia Colleges from GT, UGA, Georgia Southern, Georgia State and even a Fulbright Scholar winner with graduate fellowship at Yale and future doctoral studies.

**\*\*\*\*\*ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR\*\*\*\*\***

### **November Reminders:**

**Nov 5<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Committee meeting

**Nov 7<sup>th</sup>:** Election Day

**Nov 10<sup>th</sup>:** Veterans Day

**Nov 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>:** AT Backpacking

**Nov 12<sup>th</sup>:** New Leader Essentials class

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup>:** SPL/PL Elections and popcorn distribution at Troop Meeting

**Nov 14<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night

**Nov 16<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leader Council meeting  
**Nov 18<sup>th</sup>:** Cobb County Scout Expo  
**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>:** Board of Review  
**Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Thanksgiving Day  
**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>:** Webelos Visit Troop 629 \*\*\* GB Staff Appl. Due

### **December Reminders:**

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>:** Lock-in (Tentative)  
**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Patrol Outings/Service  
**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting  
**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>:** Thrasher Scout Day  
**Dec 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Outings/Service  
**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>:** Eagle Court of Honor for David White  
**Dec 12<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night  
**Dec 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Outings/Service  
**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>:** Board of Review  
**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>:** Patrol Leaders Council Meeting  
**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Day (no Troop Meeting)  
**Dec 31<sup>st</sup>:** Christmas Tree pickup

### **\*\*\*\*\*DEADLINES AND DATES\*\*\*\*\***

*Please frequently visit our web site [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org). It is a dynamic, changing document that will keep you abreast of all our activities and catch up on any of the latest changes. Click on Calendar for the most current information for the very busy months in the fall for scouts and adults. You'll also find more meeting dates and service project opportunities. The troop annual calendar has been formulated by the Patrol Leaders Council, who recently planned next year's events and activities. Also look for flyers at meetings or postings on the bulletin board.*

### **Preparation for Next Troop Outings ... a.k.a ... Cures for Boredom and Laziness ...**

**November 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** is an **Appalachian Trail (AT) Backpacking** trip. Flyers/forms are available at meetings and on our website. \*\*\*\*\* After acclimating yourselves to the cool weather with your hike on the best trail around, you are now ready for a great cool weekend of **skiing at Winterplace in West Virginia. January 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>** (Thurs. - Sun.) Road Trip (!) Day- and night-skiing (and other snow sports), friends, food and fun! Check out the troop flyer link and the resort link below. Money will be due December 18<sup>th</sup>, so start planning. Also more details on this trip in this section below. \*\*\*\*\* **Lock-in** date is **tentatively December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Look for flyers and sign-up at troop meetings and check the calendar frequently.

### **Semi annual SPL/PL elections**

Elections for Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader are held twice a year - May and November. The next round of elections is slated for **November 13<sup>th</sup>** to give those who are eligible a chance to step forward and offer their services and to finish off some of their leadership requirements for advancement. Let the SM know if you intend to run so your name can be put on the ballot for that night.

### **Popcorn distribution**

Distribution of ordered popcorn will be at the **November 13<sup>th</sup>** troop meeting. Past experience says that the earlier scouts begin their sales, the better success they will have at selling.

## **Venture Crew 9999 Meeting**

There will be a meeting of the Venture Crew 9999 on **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:00** at Newtown Park. If you have any questions contact either Danica C. at [pssh.jimmy9@gmail.com](mailto:pssh.jimmy9@gmail.com) or Chelsea S. at [ces04@bellsouth.net](mailto:ces04@bellsouth.net).

## **Scout Expo 2006 - Saturday, November 18th**

Don't forget about the largest Scouting show in our area, **Scout Expo 2006**. The event will be held from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, November 18th, in Cobb County's Jim Miller Park, just west of Marietta on Callaway Road. Fun for the whole family! Lots of fun stuff to see and do. Numerous exhibits, activities, and stage shows for your enjoyment. A \$3 admission includes a custom Scout Expo patch for the event. Lots more info on the Web (<http://www.scoutexpo.info/ScoutExpo/>)

## **Flyers**

Venture Crew 9999 meeting <http://www.troop629.org/forms/9999%20Notice.doc>

AT Backpacking <http://www.troop629.org/forms/AT%20overnight%2011-06.pdf>

New England Ski Trip <http://www.troop629.org/forms/New%20England%20Skiing.pdf>

January Ski Trip to West Virginia <http://www.troop629.org/events/ski07.htm>

Sea Base Bahamas Tall Ship

<http://www.troop629.org/forms/Sea%20Base%20Parents%20meeting%20Aug%202006.pdf>

Philmont, NM <http://www.troop629.org/forms/Philmont%202007%20parents%20items.pdf>

GreenBar 2007 Staff Application <http://www.atlantabsa.org/>

GT Football Game Ushering

<http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1456&id=14088>

Scout Expo 2006 <http://www.scoutexpo.info/ScoutExpo/>

Pictures - (Callaway Biking, Sandy Springs Festival, Georgia Tech Ushering)

<http://www.troop629.org/pictures/pictures.htm>

## **Cub Scout Webelos Come to Visit**

Once a year we set aside one night for Cub Scouts to visit our troop to determine if we are the best fit for them in their crossover to Boy Scouts. The **November 27<sup>th</sup>** meeting is this year's event so look for a special outdoor patrol challenge for them to participate in while their parents learn from Troop 629 leaders about our troop and its program.

## **Troop Committee Meeting**

Our October committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00** at the Mount Pisgah Dining Room.

## **Annual Boy Scout Re-Charter (Past) Dues**

If you were unable to make it to the last October meeting with your check for annual dues, please submit it to Erica Fica by November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting or mail it to her at the following address: 135 Columbia Bay, Alpharetta, GA 30005. Dues are \$65 and are collected for each scout annually in October. Your check should be made out to BSA Troop 629. Thank you.

## **Next Troop Board of Review – November 20<sup>th</sup>**

After a scout completes his Scoutmaster conference, he must notify **Mrs. Narayanan**, Troop Advancement Chair, 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**.

## **Annual Ski Trip to West Virginia**

You will not want to miss this trip on **January 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> (Thurs – Sun.)**. We will leave Thursday night and after a wonderful night sleep in beautiful Charlotte, we are off again and will arrive at Winterplace Ski Resort on Friday morning. We will ski all day and into the night on Friday (yes, they have night-

skiing). We will be staying at a luxurious hotel in Princeton, WV, just minutes from the slopes. On Saturday we hit the slopes again and spend all day skiing, later retiring to our comfortable hotel to reflect on the wonderful time. If you have not been before, this is the best time to go. Everyone else in West Virginia and the northeast is in school on Friday and we will have the slopes to ourselves. It will only take minutes to check in and away you go to fun city!! (Winterplace website (to get excited about the trip – BUT DO NOT BOOK ANYTHING through the website - your trip will be arranged through hard work done by your free tour guide a.k.a. THE TROOP.) <http://www.winterplace.com/> Money will be due December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Gregg Brasher if you have any questions [g.brasher@comcast.net](mailto:g.brasher@comcast.net)

\*\*\*\*\*SCOUT HANDSHAKE\*\*\*\*\*

**EAGLE COURT OF HONOR**

WOW! The good news just keeps on coming. We have *two more* scouts who have achieved the honored rank of Eagle this month: Dan Tinsley and Pete Knoetgen. Congratulations to both scouts! Special ceremonies for several of our new Eagle scouts are being planned to celebrate and receive their awards so please watch for announcements of times, dates and locations at troop meetings, on the bulletin board, website and/or email. These are very special recognition evenings and we hope that all scouts will attend with their families.

**ADVANCEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:**

**EAGLE:** Pete Knoetgen and Dan Tinsley

**LIFE:** (none this month)

**STAR:** Kevin D.

**FIRST CLASS:** Aroon N.

**SECOND CLASS:** Bryan R.

**TENDERFOOT:** Chap F., Brady H., Dylan L., Bryan R. and Brandon S.

**SCOUT:** (none this month)

**Drum Roll Please .....**

Selling popcorn is not so corny after all! Ask Colin C.! He won the iPod for breaking \$1,000 in the sale of popcorn for the troop. Way to go Colin! He sold \$1044 worth of popcorn. Not far behind Colin were Martin J. who had popcorn sales of \$775 and Philip S. with \$569 in sales. Also special recognition should to go to a first year scout, Ben M., who did very well with \$485 in sales.

**Spring Flower Fundraiser is already a Blossom in T629's Eye!**



Thank you to Leslie and Chris Cotney for graciously taking over the coordination of the flower fundraiser for Troop 629. The fall flowers ordered and delivered in October were beautiful. The troop sold an amazing \$3,000 worth of those popular blossoms. Let them know how much your friends and neighbors enjoyed their flowers. We can look forward to the 'Cotney Coordinating Team' again for the spring flower sales.

Thanks to **Hanson Nurseries** who support Troop 629 by providing us with wonderful fall and spring flowers for our fundraisers. This is a major profit-maker for the troop and participating scouts' high adventure accounts.

***Thank you to all of those parents, friends and neighbors who have filled their pantries and gardens with troop popcorn and flowers!***

### **A Report on Troop 629 Community Festival Volunteers**

Several scouts from our Troop completed a grand total of 51 **service hours** for their volunteer work at both the Sandy Springs Festival in September (2 days), and the Roswell Youth Day Festival in October. James D., Derrick G., and Robbie M. worked at the S.S.F., and handled various assignments such as helium balloon distribution, carnival game prize-picking, soft drink sales & distribution, amusement token sales & accounting, and chair & table break-down after the event. For the R.Y.D.F., Blake C., James D., David D., and Greg G. capably handled such tasks as the icing and distribution of beverages, food service & distribution, and crowd control & kid management for inflatable slide attractions. Each is receiving a special Chattahoochee District patch for their participation. We recognize and appreciate their "Scouting Spirit" and volunteer service in the local community.

### **Newtown Park Troop Meeting was Fun!**

Thank you Leslie Cotney and all of those extra volunteer hands who made this annual troop meeting a great success. Everyone found something good to eat and drink after enjoying a stealthy game of running around in the cool night. It was a great troop-building night.

\*\*\*\*\***EARNING POWER**\*\*\*\*\*

### **Troop 629 Scout Activity Scholarships**

Through a community service work effort opportunities are available to all our scouts who may be in need. No scout should be denied participation in a troop outing or trip purely for temporary financial situations. We can help each scout earn his own way easily enough. Just ask the Scoutmaster to work out your plan, then sign up for that outing you want to go on.

### **Missed the opportunity to earn H.A. \$\$\$? Don't despair ...**

Popcorn and Fall flower sale fundraisers are now complete. Many of our scouts now have additional funds to use for skiing, summer camp and any high adventure outing. Look for the next opportunities through **Christmas tree pick-up (Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>)** and Spring flower sales.

### **Prove it!**

For those scouts who need proof on paper about how those fundraisers add up in your High Adventure accounts, both Blake C. & Philip K. earned more than \$160 each with their flower sales of a little over \$500 each. Grayson C. earned over \$110 with his flower sales of more than \$380.

### **Fundraisers for Your High Adventure Accounts and Troop Expenses**

It is that time of year for many of our annual fundraiser support programs. The flyers are all out at the weekly troop meetings, posted on the website, and linked in this newsletter. These programs help each scout earn his own way on those High Adventure trips that he wants to go on. It's never too early for a scout to start his own individual High Adventure account which the troop maintains. Many boys have been able to fund their entire big-ticket trips from accumulating earnings over the years. Look for details at the end of meetings near the bulletin board or from special handouts.

### **Fabulous Troop Fundraising Activity: KROGER DEBIT CARDS - \$\$ Turn your grocery shopping into funds for our Scouts in Troop 629 at no cost to you! Why not participate?**

Join Troop 629 families in this fabulous, painless and easy monthly fundraiser. By just participating in this generous Kroger program at no cost to you and in conjunction with your normal routine of buying

groceries for the family, our **troop receives 5%** of our total debit card orders each month. These funds go directly to keep the costs down on each of our monthly activities and to help pay for various troop operational costs and scholarships. The debit cards can be used at any Kroger store [during each use your purchase is deducted and when the amount of the card is depleted, it is kept by the cashier – new cards are issued each month and mailed to you]. There is **no service charge** – (if you order a \$50 Kroger debit card, you will receive a \$50 Kroger debit card)! To get started, call or e-mail **Susan Cook (678-297-7766; [ssbcook@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssbcook@bellsouth.net) )** with this information:

- Name; Address; Phone #; E-mail address; Amount for Monthly Kroger debit card (i.e. \$25; \$40; \$50; \$75; \$100, \$200...etc.)

Orders are placed at the end of the month for the following month. At the beginning of the month, Susan will mail your Kroger debit card to you (with enclosed reminder of amount owed and her address to send payment). Return payment in the mail to Susan (requested to be received by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month) or you can bring payment on to Monday night troop meeting and give to Susan.

### \*\*\*\*\*SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\*

**Service project opportunities** are available almost every weekend. Ask yourself when you say you're bored: Am I really *bored* or am I just being *lazy* and not really looking to get involved? Active participation for each rank is simple but many are making it difficult to meet this requirement. Active quite literally means showing up and the participation part is just as simple ... you've got to get out and do something at least.

Many **service opportunities** exist throughout the next few months. From Georgia Tech football game ushering, canned food drives, Eagle projects and community festivals ... they are open to all. Why not sign up for a few exciting service opportunities with one of your scout friends today? Flyers and handouts with details are available at the meetings, check out the troop calendar below or express you interest with the SPL and SM as to how you can get involved - it's easy - just ask!

### **A Request for Your Help on an Eagle Project Benefiting the Military Troops**

I will have a box at troop meetings for anybody who wants to help me out with my Eagle project by collecting items I could send to the troops. Example items include deodorant, small snacks, batteries, reading material, other entertainment such as cards and hacky sacs. I will have a full list of further items also. Thanks!!!! ..... *Adam Norris*

### **Celebrate the Upcoming Holidays in a Very Special Way**

Lots of service projects are just plain fun while helping others, such as ushering at football games, helping other scouts with Eagle projects or fundraising for your High Adventure accounts. Consider over the next few months choosing a service project that you can participate in with your family as a very special way to celebrate together during the holiday season. Many local charities are especially in need of the community's support during this very busy time of year. These organizations and the families that they help are very appreciative of your support through your time and donations. If you don't already have a local charity that you are familiar with, please email Noreen Mitchell at [nakmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:nakmitchell@yahoo.com) for some suggestions. What a great way to earn those service hours while knowing you are making a difference in another person's life right here in the community!

### **Georgia Tech Football Game Ushers**

Some of the home games allow scouts to serve as ushers and this year our **SPL** will be looking those interested in participating. See him for details and to sign up if you are interested. Only one more game left - **Saturday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** against Duke. At this point no game time has been set, so check the GT website <http://ramblinwreck.cstv.com/sports/m-footbl/sched/geot-m-footbl-sched.html>.

\*\*\*\*\*CANDY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS\*\*\*\*\*

Name the easiest merit badge you have earned. Which merit badge was the hardest to earn?

Who answered October's question? ....

Adam D. .... The easiest merit badge was fire safety or cooking. The hardest are the citizenships, family life, and personal management.

Next month's question: *Which troop outing was your favorite this year? Why?*

Scouts, email your responses to [spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com) (must include your name) or bring to a troop meeting. Thanks to those who sent in a response.

\*\*\*\*\*MAKING HISTORY\*\*\*\*\*

**Four articles were submitted to the SM by Troop Historian Daniel B.:**

Summer Camp 2006

Summer camp of 2006 was a great year. The older scouts helped the new scouts "survive" their first year. Aside from the various classes we did to get important merit badges, there were many memorable moments from our free time. No one will forget our brave, wood-based conqueror: Stumpy the Great who defeated "The Destroyer" an evil stump designed by the summer camp staff.

Another fun memory was Hammocktopia, land of the hammocks. Several scouts purchased hammocks from the store and set them up in a small patch of trees. They were so comfortable that we even slept in them for a couple nights.

On Wednesday, our troop went whitewater rafting, a highlight of the week every year. Everyone enjoyed that, even if the water was freezing (40%).

At the end of the week, we were all tired and wanted to go home, but everyone agreed that this had been one of the best summer camp years ever.

Providence Canyon: I Told You We Went the Wrong Way!

Yes! The 2006 hiking campout was at one of Georgia's natural wonders: Providence Canyon! We began early in the morning, and trekked down the crevasse, observing the beautiful rocks. When we reached the bottom, we set up our tents and camped out for the night.

The next morning it was a wake-up-at-the-crack-of-dawn-and-eat-cold-hard-breakfast kind of morning, but we set off with the thought of a nice, quiet car ride home. Unfortunately, along the way we got lost and had to turn around or blaze our own trails. Eventually, we made it out and everyone was happy to go home.

WHEEEEE! Six Flags 2004!

I think every scout likes to spend a day at a fast-paced, overpriced theme park as much as I do! When we went to Six Flags, I was very excited. As we rushed in, everyone was talking about what they were going to ride first. After splitting up, my buddy and I went and rode every ride in the park! It was fun to zip up and down on the world's fastest coasters, then get off and go straight to the next one!

At the end of the day, we all piled into the cars, noxious, tired, and happy.

## The Troop 629 Ski Trip to Winterplace 2006

This year we went on a fun ski trip to Winterplace. Many people went and those who didn't must not know how to have fun. The slopes were really run, well, until it got cold and you ended up freezing any exposed skin. Thankfully, our lodge was nice and warm and we got to watch movies. At the slopes, many people tried snowboarding, but skiing was much easier. At the end of this trip, everyone was tired but had had a good time.

### **An article was submitted by Troop Historian, William H.:**

#### "USS ALABAMA" TROOP OUTING

BSA Troop 629's weekend outing to Alabama was taken from October 6-8, 2006. About 15 of our scouts attended, along with Scout Master Gillis. Thank you for a wonderful trip Mr. Gillis! We also want to thank Mr. Brasher (Jake's dad), Mr. Bierbaum (Ben's dad), and Mr. Rocchio (Dale's dad) who joined us on the trip. We all met at Mt. Pisgah at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, loaded up our gear, and headed west. We caravanned with Mr. Gillis in the lead (most of the time).

WE arrived at Maxwell Air Force Base outside of Montgomery, Alabama (the state capital) about 9:30 that evening. It was dark when we drove in so we did not see too much of the base. We slept in the base chapel using our air mats and sleeping bags to bed down on the floor. The adults went right on to sleep, while the guys watched videos, played cards, and played Hacky Sack (foot bag) provided by scouter Collin C.

WE were up early Saturday morning. We were packed up and on the road traveling southwest by 6:30 A.M. We were starving, so the group stopped at a McDonald's mid-morning and grabbed a quick breakfast. We continued on to Mobile, Alabama and pulled in at the Mobile Bay Ferry Docks. We were starving again, so we made sandwich wraps for a picnic lunch.

AFTER lunch it was time for a ferry ride to Dauphin Island to visit the Estuarium and Fort Morgan. We drove our vehicles right across a ramp and onto the ferry. We were on the ferry ride for about 45 minutes. Everyone enjoyed the observation platforms on the ferry and the beautiful scenery. We are proud to say we were good sailors and no one got sea sick.



ON the island, we first visited historic Fort Gaines, one of the Confederate forts guarding the entrance to the bay during the American Civil War. The battle of Mobile Bay was fought here in 1864.



Northeast Bastion shows  
The guardhouse.  
The semicircles are  
Gun emplacements.

Anchor from the U.S.S. Hartford



FOLLOWING the tour of Fort Gaines, we went to the interactive Mobile Bay Estuary & Aquarium also located on Dauphin Island. There our troop saw all sorts of plant life and animal life, including sea creatures: jelly fish, turtles, sea snakes, sea frogs, and the amazing electric catfish.





WE also strolled down the outdoor boardwalk enjoying the bird life and dune plants along the shoreline.



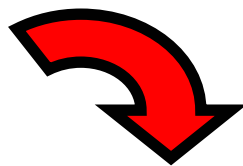
WE then drove over a bridge to leave the island and return to the mainland. We headed straight to Battleship Memorial Park which features the battleship USS Alabama, the submarine USS Drum, and a collection of vintage aircraft and equipment. We started our tour with the Drum and then a quick look at the USS Alabama. We stored our gear on empty bunks on the battleship in preparation of sleeping there Saturday night.

BY then everyone was starving, so we took a quick side trip to CiCi's pizza to grab some grub.

AFTER dinner, we all returned to the battleship where we

enjoyed a game of "Capture the Flag." We used Will's stuffed animal Scooby Who and PeeWee's stuffed witch, The Wicked Witch of the Northwest, for our flags.

THEN we reported to our bunks on the ship for the night. Most of us were really, really tired and went right to sleep. Some stayed awake for cards and strolls around the deck. Regrettably, we were informed there are no coed facilities on the ship. Oh, well...



Troop 629's visit to the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park was both educational and fun.



**USS ALABAMA**



**USS DRUM**



WE woke up at 7:30 Sunday morning and packed up. We were starving, so we had breakfast at a local MickyDee's. After hours of travel on the trip home, we were starving so we had lunch on the road, at a truck stop area. We arrived back in Roswell, tired and happy, about 3:15 Sunday afternoon. All and all it was a great trip. Everyone agrees we'd love to go again!

By: BSA Troop 629 Historian Will Haynes – October 9, 2006

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

<http://www.ussalabama.com/html/collection/index.php>

1943 U.S. Naval Institute Photo

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<http://www.ussalabama.com>

\*\*\*\*\*BE PREPARED\*\*\*\*\*

### **New to the Troop and Have Some Questions?**

We recently held a meeting for the parents of the new scouts and you may have not been able to attend. Gregg Brasher would be happy to field your questions or schedule another meeting, depending on the interest. In order for your son to benefit from the program, it is very important that you are involved in the process. We want to be sure that you are knowledgeable about how the troop works, how your son advances, the trips, etc...If you have an interest in meeting or speaking with Gregg about the program, please email him at [g.brasher@comcast.net](mailto:g.brasher@comcast.net)

### **Patrol Leaders Council - Next PLC is set for November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

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.

### **December patrol outings**

Our patrol leader's council has normally set aside patrol activities for the month of December. Look for details by each patrol to conduct small group service and fun activities which we hope every scout will take time to participate in with his group.

## Scoutmaster's Notes on High Adventures for 2007

For those scouts 14 and older adventures include a New England ski trip over a January weekend, Bahamas tall ship sailing in April, Rocky Mountain backpacking in Philmont, NM in June and if interest is given, a backwoods Canadian canoe trip in July with Northern Tier. If you haven't made your interest known and signed up for your High Adventure – what are you waiting for? See the Scoutmaster at the weekly meeting or the web site <http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/adventure.htm> for more info. Parental information fliers have been given out and forms and initial payments are due.

### Next Court of Honor – January 29, 2007

All scouts and their families are invited to recognize those accomplishments over the past few months. It is a great place to re-confirm next year's activities and how they all fit together for each scout. Hope to see you all there.

### Life to Eagle Workshop – Look for the next meeting in December or January

Newtown Building (This building is on Old Alabama Road at Haynes Bridge Rd. intersection, across from BP Station.) The purpose of the workshop is to provide the Eagle candidate with perspective on the time and effort required to complete the final advancement step in Scouting. We will discuss service projects in depth: various types, most successful Troop 629 projects, how to find them and where to find ideas for them. Come and receive tools to guide and assist you in this great journey! Parents are welcome. Contact Mr. Walker for more information [bob@walker-ga.org](mailto:bob@walker-ga.org)

### Trip Paperwork – It is important

Prior to each trip we ask for a permission slip for a scout's participation to ensure we have the parents' concurrence and have the latest info on that scout. This permission slip is important for each activity and should be carefully completed including if you can help with the driving to and from any activity. Please fill them out completely and have them in by their deadlines so we can gather the proper resources to carry out each and every activity. Please make your intentions known early so we can properly make reservations for everyone and have the food and travel arrangements ironed out. Adults wishing to participate are *always welcome and appreciated*. However, we do require each to be registered, complete the minimum training and have an updated physical. Details and troop website links can be found in the \*\*\*\*\*ADULT INVOLVEMENT\*\*\*\*\* section in this newsletter.

### Update Your Contact & Medical Information

It is important that we have your most current emergency information on your Class 1 form <http://www.troop629.org/forms/Districtforms/Medical%20Form%20Class%201%20and%202.pdf>. This form was first filled out by your parents when you joined Troop 629 in order to attend weekly meetings. It is only valid for one year. A parent/guardian can update it by reviewing your Class 1 on file, noting any changes and initialing it with a new date – valid for another year. Changes should always be made as soon as they occur. It is just that simple. Parents, please ask Sue Knoetgen ([spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com)) to pull your scout's medical file to review your contact and medical information. Or you can click on the Troop Forms link above, print a new Class 1&2 and fill out the Class 1 portion (sign and date it) and have your scout hand it to Mrs. Knoetgen or Mr. Gillis. Class 2 and Class 3 forms are signed by a doctor and are needed for outings that extend past 72 hours or High Adventure trips.

**Troop meetings start at 7:15 PM and end by 8:45 PM each Monday.** Full uniform is expected unless otherwise noted. Merit badge work time is limited to the designated "game time" only at each meeting. If it is a patrol competition night then there is no merit badge time at those meetings. Scouts are expected to be active members of their patrols and cannot be constantly away working on their own advancement. Scouting is not just about the individual scout – Scouting is Outing, using the

patrol method and working with the group. Please dress appropriately for the weather as some activities are outside at night. (Be Prepared)

### **“YOU’VE GOT TO READ THE BOOK”**

Scouts in our Troop earn merit badges **only** after they have read the entire merit badge book and have met with a designated approved adult who will verify the completeness of all the requirements. Clinics and camp earned badges are to be verified with this process as well to ensure quality control over the process being used to help a scout actually learn the expected materials. When a scout is ready to get checked out by a counselor, he needs to ask Mr. Gillis to direct him to an approved counselor for that particular merit badge. Troop meetings **are not** the normal place to accomplish merit badge verifications, but rather with adult counselors at separate settings. Advancements to achieve Scout through First Class are conducted during Troop meetings and that is where new scouts need to be concentrating their time. Merit badge help nights are on the **second Tuesday of each month from 6-7PM. The next MB Help Night is November 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Do you qualify for GreenBar (GB-NYLT) Youth Staff?**

The 2007 GreenBar Staff Application is now posted on the Atlanta Area Council website, <http://www.atlantabsa.org/>. (Follow each web page by clicking on Program/Services, Training, GreenBar.) The deadline for online submission for Staff applications is **November 26<sup>th</sup>** and interviews by the council will be **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The approximate staff course dates for the GreenBar Leadership Training this summer are: **Week 1: May 25 – June 2; Week 2: June 1 – 9; and Week 3: June 8 – 16**. Log on and read the qualifications for this great leadership opportunity. Be sure to let Mr. Gillis know you are interested in applying.

### **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>

\*\*\*\*\*A SCOUT IS THRIFTY\*\*\*\*\*

### **Lending Closet**

A lending (and donating) closet of items from gear to uniforms is available to Troop 629 scouts. Our closet has recycled items that any scout can seek to use or have just for the asking. Those who have items to pass along are also encouraged to do so for the next thrifty scout.

### **Patrol food items**

Non-perishable (left over) food from camping trips that can be reused needs to be turned in with the patrol gear at the end of each trip and is 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.

\*\*\*\*\*ADULT INVOLVEMENT\*\*\*\*\*

*Behind the scenes of any great Troop are many helpful adults doing their part to keep the activities and events running smoothly. If you have some time and can help out, please see our committee chair, Wendy Kraemer, to find out which areas are open for your assistance.*

## Open Committee Position:

### **Popcorn Fundraiser (Assistant - with promotion forthcoming!)**

We are in need of an **Assistant** for our Popcorn Kernel, Frank Rocchio, who has headed up this project over the last two years. This is an annual fall project that has just finished. **We need you!** Please contact Wendy Kraemer [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) or Frank Rocchio (home) 770-664-9314 or (cell) 678-362-0835 for more information on this open position.

### **Parents Needed for Troop Boards of Review**

A troop Board of Review (BOR) provides a great opportunity for parents to better understand rank advancement and to get to know the Scouts. Each Board consists of three troop parent volunteers. Boards of Review are typically held each month for those Scouts who have completed all requirements and Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement. If you are interested in participating as a Troop BOR member please contact Kathleen Narayanan at 770-998-6752 or [kathleen@avalonintl.com](mailto:kathleen@avalonintl.com). No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

**Adult Training:** All adults wanting to participate in any of our activities have a number of pre-training requirements we like to and need to have accomplished depending on the activity. It's best to get your qualifications completed early so when that trip comes up that you want to go on, you aren't scrambling to get in. Many of the courses are held on limited basis. Check our web site under Training for the minimum needs and look for notices of when the classes are coming up.

### **So now you are ready to get started? Want more insight on what scouting is all about?**

Your first step is to click on this link <http://www.troop629.org/forms/adult%20ldr%20app%2028-501.pdf> then print and complete the **Adult Application** and give to Kathleen Narayanan at the next troop meeting. Your next step begins your training- go to <http://www.troop629.org/training/training.htm> and click on **Youth Protection Training** and follow it through to the end. After you've completed this simple on-line course, you are on your way to being trained.

### **Adult Leaders - Tell Us You've Been Trained**

We need trained leaders! Upon completion of any BSA training program, please send a copy of your course "completion" card to Kathleen Narayanan, at [kathleen@avalonintl.com](mailto:kathleen@avalonintl.com), or bring a copy to her at the Troop meeting.

### **Merit Badge Counselors Needed**

Being a Merit Badge Counselor is an easy and fun way to be involved in the Troop. All Merit Badge Counselors must complete a Merit Badge Counselor application and Adult Leader Registration form (both can be found on our Troop website Forms page). To learn more about your role as a Merit Badge Counselor visit [www.meritbadge.com/info/](http://www.meritbadge.com/info/). Please give completed forms to Kathleen Narayanan. We are seeking counselors for all BSA merit badges; however, we currently have no one registered for the following merit badges:

Archaeology	Dentistry	Plant Science	Skating
Bugling	Medicine	Railroading	Textile
Climbing	Model Design	Reptile/Amphibian	Waterskiing
			Whitewater

### **WEB SITE INFORMATION**

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.

Troop 629 is sponsored by **Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church** [www.mountpisgah.org](http://www.mountpisgah.org)

Please send all email address changes, deletions and additions to this address:  
[spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com) Do you know of a troop adult or scout who is not receiving their newsletter by email and would like to be included? Forward this copy to them and have them send me their name and email address.

Why not print out the calendar and post it near your family calendar? Remember to verify dates often on the website and bulletin board.

## November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<u>29</u> Oct	<b>30</b>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u> Nov	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Duty to God Encampment End Daylight Saving Time	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting at Newtown Park	Halloween				
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
6:00p -7:30p Committee Meeting	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting	Election Day Election Day--No School		7:30p RT & OA Meeting	Veterans Day (Fed)	AT Backpacking Veterans Day WF-BASR
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
AT Backpacking New Leader Essentials WF-BASR	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Troop Elections	MB Help Night room a019		7:00p -8:00p Patrol Leader's Council		Cobb County Scout Expo
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Board of Review			Thanksgiving (Fed)		
<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>1</u> Dec	<u>2</u>
	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Webelos Visit GreenBar Staff Appl. Due				Lock-In ??????	Lock-In ?????? Patrol Outings/Service