



# THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

October 2011; Volume 16, Issue 8

## September Highlights

**Theme: Sports by the *Flaming Arrows***

Sept 1	Mustang District Roundtable
Sept 6	Troop Meeting
Sept 9-11	Troop Campout at Carvers
Sept 13	PLC/ASM/Committee Meeting
Sept 16-18	Order of the Arrow Conclave at Stearns
Sept 19	Merit Badge Session
Sept 20	Troop Meeting
Sept 27	Troop Court of Honor

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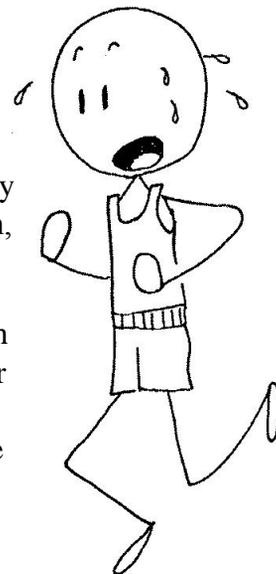
## Scoutmaster's Corner

*From Mr. Erich Schwab (Scoutmaster):*

Aside from Scouting, one of the activities I really enjoy is running. I went out for the Cross Country team the fall after my first trip to Philmont. I credit the 70 mile trek in the Sangre de Cristo mountains for giving an awkward ninth grader the confidence and drive to start running, and I've been hooked ever since.

Today I completed my 8th Twin Cities Marathon and 28th marathon to date. But in spite of ideal weather conditions and good training, today proved to be a challenging day as I fought some weird hip and ankle pain. It would have been easy to quit, but I've finished every marathon I've started so I recalibrated, slowed down, even walked when I needed to, and got it done.

My point here is that there are many things in life that are challenging but worth doing. If running a marathon (or anything else) were easy, everyone would do it, or no one would. Less than 1% of Americans will run a marathon, and less than 3% scouts will earn their Eagle. Don't give up – slow down and recalibrate if you have to, but get it done! I'm proud of all you.



Yours in Scouting,

Mr. Schwab

# Fundraisers

*From Mrs. Mary Jean Watras & Mr. John Watras (Wreath Sale Coordinator):*

## Time to Sell the Christmas Wreaths!

It's time to get out and sell wreaths again! As soon as you get your packet, try to get right out and start selling. Our local cub scouts started selling last week, so with that in mind, there is no time to waste. Extra order forms will be on our website, if you need them.

Mickman Brothers has added or enhanced many of their products this year. We have a new wreath this year – **The Cranberry Splash Wreath**. This wreath has a deluxe 4" wide, fabric bow with gold wired edges. It includes Cranberry sprigs, gold Juniper twigs, and pine cones, along with gold jingle bells. The **Wintergreen Wreath is now only available in the UPS Holiday Gift Order Form**. The beautiful Candlelit Centerpiece now has a wooden wick. The wick burns clean and adds a soothing crackling log fire sound. Finally, nutcracker on the Living Tree can now be used as an ornament.

After a few years of no price increases, we have a small increase of about a \$1.00 on most of the products this year. This was due to an increased cost of materials, which was passed on to us from the wreath company, Mickman Brothers.

If you would like to send a wreath to an out of state relative, let us know and we can get you the UPS Holiday Gift Order Form. The prices are a little higher, but the shipping costs are included. These products come well packaged and arrive around the 1st week of December along with a handwritten note. All our UPS customers have always been happy with their wreaths. It's a great way for your scout to send a relative some holiday cheer.

### Things to remember:

- Collect the money when you take the order
- You may collect cash or checks
- **All checks should be made out to Troop 695 \***
- If the weather permits, wear your scout uniform, so that people can see you are a Boy Scout
- Keep safe when you sell – don't go into people's houses
- Let people know that delivery will be the week before Thanksgiving
- All products, except the Living Tree and Centerpiece can be left outside. Please make a note on your order form, if a customer tells you they won't be around that week, so you can hold the product until they are home.
- All order sheets and money are due Tuesday, October 18, 2011

The profits that the boys make go a long way to help them finance their trips for the upcoming year. Have fun selling and if you have any questions, feel free to call John or Mary Jean Watras at 952-974-2916.

\* Including UPS Holiday Gift Order Products.



# Leadership Reports

*From Aaron Halpin (Patrol Leader of the Panthers):*

Hey Scouts ... upcoming November shotgun campout ... come along and experience what it is like to trap shoot (shotgun). Parents ... don't worry we will have it all under (safety) control. It should go out with a BANG!!!



*From Benjamin Nichols (Historian):*

Hi Troop 695,

This is your historian Benjamin Nichols. I think that we have had a great month back in scouts. I thought the Court of Honor was great!!!! I will be taking lots of pictures during my new role as historian. I enjoyed my former role of fire instructor and serving the troop in that. I would like to thank you all for voting me in, and I will make sure that I prove myself worthy of your trust. Thanks,

Benjamin Nichols



*From Corey Prell (Quartermaster):*

I just wanted to remind you guys to dry your tents after campouts. If your tent leaks please let someone know because if you do, we will be able to fix it. This will my last article this year as Quarter Master so I want to thank Mr. Straight for helping me along the way.



# Announcements

*From Mr. Marshall "Mad" Ness (Board of Review Coordinator):*

## **Rank Advancement – Troop 695 is an Ambitious Bunch!**

Summer is officially in the rear view mirror, and with that, rank advancements are wrapped up ahead of the September Court of Honor ... so let's have a Board of Review ... in review.

There were 20 rank advancements during the June – September time frame ... a hefty number which illustrates just how motivated our scouts were. I was involved in many of the Boards of Review needed to wrap up rank advancement, and it was great getting to know the scouts better. I would also like to thank all the parents who helped me organize and participate in the Boards of Review.

In the near future, myself, Erich Schwab and Jim Horn will post some guidelines that scouts need to follow for requesting Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review. Due to the high volume of last-minute advancement requests, we need to set up some easy-to-follow rules that will make the process less hectic before the December Court of Honor ... stay tuned!

## **BOARD OF REVIEW**



# Announcements

*From Mr. Joe Polta (Assistant Scoutmaster):*

## **Wood Badge – Advanced Training for Registered Leaders**

Registered leaders (Assistant Scoutmasters, Patrol Coaches, committee members, and anyone else who wants to make Troop 695 better): if you've been on assignment with the troop for 18 months or more, it's time for you to take Wood Badge, part of the BSA's continuum of training. (Prerequisite: you must have completed position-specific training.)

Wood Badge teaches leadership, project management, conflict resolution, managing change, and many other contemporary leadership subjects, all within the context of Scouting. The course is six days long, usually over two weekends, a month apart. Along the way you meet great Scouters from other units and districts, exchange ideas with them, and form new friendships. Your "final project" for the course will be designed to improve Troop 695, or improve Scouting in general. What you learn in Wood Badge will help you in other areas of your life -- work, family, church, sports, community.

The next opportunity is the **Winter 2012 course, Feb. 3 - 5 and March 2 - 4**. Great for the non-camper – no outdoor sleeping required! No mosquitoes!

Next, there's the **Summer 2012 course, June 25 - 30** – ASM Joe Polta is helping staff this course. Six days in a row, for those who want to avoid conflicts with Sunday worship or otherwise minimize impact on their weekends.

After that, there is the **Fall 2012 course** (dates to be determined soon), for which ASM John Lewis will have a very prominent staff position.

Our children deserve trained leaders. Please enroll for Wood Badge. Please take this important step in becoming properly trained as a Scouting volunteer. Talk to Mr. Schwab, John Lewis, Joe Polta, Doug McKenney, Steve Rorem, Tom Gunderson, Don Qually, or anyone else wearing the Wood Badge beads, for more information.



*From Mr. Marshall "Mad" Ness (Merit Badge Madness Coordinator):*

## **Merit Badge Madness 2012: Now Taking Requests**

Baseball has the "Mid-Summer Classic", otherwise known as the All-Star Game. Here at Troop 695, we have the "Mid-Winter Classic", a.k.a. Merit Badge Madness.

Fans get to vote for their favorite players in the All-Star Game, and now I'd like to start taking merit badge class requests for Merit Badge Madness, which starts on Tuesday, January 31 and culminates with a retreat the final weekend in February.

Please bear in mind that not all votes will make the final list of 12 classes, but if you have a merit badge you'd really like to see offered, please let me know via e-mail at [mness@powerhousetg.com](mailto:mness@powerhousetg.com).

The troop is also considering a new venue for the weekend retreat, typically held at YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI. If you have suggestions, please let me know via e-mail, even if you'd prefer to keep things the same.

# Troop Leadership

<b>Scoutmaster</b>		Erich Schwab
<b>Patrol Coaches</b>	Wolverines	Joel Nichols Dan Edlund Steve Rorem
	Flaming Arrows	Tom Gunderson Paul Kronlokken
	Thunder Cats	Doug McKenney Derrick Poirier John Beauchamp
	Panthers	Mike Madsen
	Timber Cobras	Burt Boudreaux Erich Schwab Mark Kronlokken
	Thunder Dragon/Scorpions	Bill Brown Mike Toay
	<b>Troop Positions</b>	Senior Patrol Leader
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader		Turner Gunderson Matthew Kronlokken
Troop Guides		Ben Stone (Raccoons) Isaac Anderson (Lightning Sharks)
Scribe		Ben Empric
Historian		Benjamin Nichols
Quartermaster		Cameron Lovekin
Librarian		Brian Ness
Chaplain Aide		David Chadwick
<b>Patrol Leaders</b>	Bugler	William O'Malley
	Timber Cobras	Josh Boudreaux
	Panthers	Aaron Halpin
	Thunder Cats	<i>Open</i>
	Flaming Arrows	Ben Giles Isaac Welsch (APL)
	Wolverines	Logan Sperr Wyatt Edlund (APL)
	Raccoons	Duncan Sather
<b>Instructors</b>	Lightning Sharks	Noah Otis
	Camping	<i>Open</i>
	Cooking	Isaac Welsch
	Fire Safety	<i>Open</i>
	First Aid	Ben Schleiss
	Knife/Axe Safety	<i>Open</i>
	Knots	<i>Open</i>

<b>Troop Committee Chair</b>		Mike Hoerle
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Chair</b>	Collette Schleiss
	Treasurer/Scout Accounts	Tong Stone
	Check Writer	Doug McKenney John Lewis
	Christmas Tree Lot	Dan Edlund
	Fall Wreath Sales	Mary Jean Watras
	Flying Cloud Snack Shack	Annette Anderson
	Popcorn Sales	Julie McKenney
	Special Events	Annette Anderson
<b>Advancement</b>	<b>Chair</b>	Cindy Henderson
	Merit Badge Coordinator	Cindy Henderson
	BOR Coordinator	Marshall Ness
	Eagle BOR Coordinator	Nancy Madsen
	Leadership Goals Coordinators	Burt Boudreaux John Lewis Anne Kollmeyer
	Recruiting Coordinators	Burt Boudreaux Don Qually Jennifer Nichols
	Merit Badge Madness	Marshall Ness
<b>Information &amp; Communications</b>	<b>Chair</b>	Ellen Hoerle
	Medical Forms	Karen Polta
	Newsletter	Tong Stone
	Troop Directory	Karen Zemlin
	Troopmaster	Karen Zemlin
	Webmaster	Doug McKenney
	New Scout Handbook	Ellen Hoerle
	COH Program Handout	Ellen Hoerle
	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Camping		Michael Wiig
Fire Arm Safety		Paul Anderson Win Giles
Chaplain		Doug McKenney
Service Projects		Trudy Gunderson
Philmont		Don Qually
Many Point		Tom Gunderson Trudy Gunderson
Order of the Arrow		Michael Wiig
Quartermaster		David Straight
COH Coordinator		Christy Johnson
Adult Leader Training		Michael Wiig

# Calendar and Bulletin Board Information

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## October Events at a Glance

October 4	Troop Meeting/Parents Meeting
October 6	Mustang District Roundtable
October 11	Troop Meeting
October 14-16	Troop Campout: Astronomy
October 18	PLC/ASM/Committee Meeting
October 23	<i>Reconnaissance</i> Articles Due
October 25	Troop Meeting

### Class B Shirts Available

Class B scout shirts are in stock and available for \$10.00 each. Shirts can be ordered in Small, Med, Large or XL. Payment can be made by check made out to Troop 695 or your payment can be deducted from your scout account. If you are interested in ordering a class B shirt, please email David Straight at [straight\\_david@yahoo.com](mailto:straight_david@yahoo.com). Please indicate size and type of payment.

## Bulletin Board

### **Reconnaissance Articles**

Articles for the next issue of this newsletter are due to Tong Stone no later than Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please email your articles to [tss.ljs@gmail.com](mailto:tss.ljs@gmail.com).

### **Reconnaissance on the Web**

The latest issue of the Reconnaissance is always available online on our Troop 695 website. Visit [www.troop695.org](http://www.troop695.org) and click on the "Newsletter" link in the left side column.

### **Advancement Contacts**

- Advancement – Cindy Henderson
- Board of Review – Marshall Ness
- Eagle Board of Review – Nancy Madsen

Contact information can be found in your Roster.

The Merit Badge sign-up book can be found by the ships at each meeting.

The *Reconnaissance* is a monthly publication of Boy Scout Troop 695 which is chartered through:

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