



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

December 2011; Volume 16, Issue 10

November Highlights

Theme: Shooting Sports by the Panthers/Timber Cobras

Nov 1	Troop Meeting/Parents Meeting
Nov 3	Mustang District Roundtable
Nov 4	Service: Eden Lake Carnival
Nov 5	Service: Prairie Lutheran Church Exterior Cleanup
Nov 4-5	Order of the Arrow Fellowship
Nov 8	Troop Meeting
Nov 12-13	Troop Campout: Shooting Sports
Nov 15	Recruiting: First Aid with Pack 348
Nov 19	Christmas Tree Lot Setup
Nov 22	Christmas Tree Lot Training
Nov 25-27	Service: Wreath Delivery
Nov 29	Recruiting: Climbing at REI

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Fundraisers

From Mr. John & Mrs. Mary Jean Watras (Wreath Sales Coordinators):

2011 Wreath Sales Wrap-up

2011 was a banner year for wreaths. Our scout sales this year totaled \$14,251.75, which was over \$4,000 higher than last year. We had 32 scouts participating, with an average sale of about \$445.36. Our most popular item continues to be the Classic Wreath (134 ordered), followed by the Victorian Wreath (93 ordered). This is one of the most profitable fundraisers for the scouts. The profit margin is about 39%. So if you didn't get the chance to participate this time, keep it in mind next year!

The profits from scout wreaths were \$5,567.19, with \$3,897.73 (70%) going to the scout accounts and \$1,670.46 (30%) going into the Troop account.

Our UPS wreath sales continue to grow. This year our UPS sales were \$492, while last year they were only \$150. What a great way to spread holiday cheer to distant relatives.

This year, we had a corporate sale of 80 wreaths, for an additional \$1440 in sales, adding \$754.40 to the Troop profits. The 80 wreaths needed to be delivered to individual houses throughout the metro area. So, they were divided up and mapped out (thank you Karen Polta!) and then delivered by the scouts & their parents over the Thanksgiving weekend. This was a big undertaking, so "Thank you" to all the parents who helped deliver. All boys who helped deliver these wreaths received service hours for doing so.

A big thank you to the people who helped sort and distribute all the orders on that cold Wednesday: Marshall Ness, Tom Gunderson, Annette Anderson, Diane Grunwald & Ellen Hoerle. There were over 800 items delivered and it went smoothly because of all of you!

Leadership Reports

Scoutmaster's Corner

SPL Scratch

From Michael Watras (Senior Patrol Leader):

Hello Troop 695, this is Michael Watras, your SPL.

First I would like to say thank you for electing me. This leadership experience is great.

An update on some events: In December, we have some Webelo's coming to a few events like Chess night and the lock-in, so be friendly to them.

The November campout, which was Shooting, was a blast. This is one of our most popular campouts, and I have heard from multiple people that they enjoyed that event. Thank you to the Older Scout Patrol for putting this together.

I am happy to say that I have a stellar leadership team on staff, and I know that regardless of their position, they'll do well.

Your SPL,
Michael Watras



From Brian Ness (Librarian):

On December 6, I will be putting a merit badge book sign-out sheet in the troop library at church.

It will be easy to understand, so please sign out merit badge books as you use them.

This goes for both scouts and adults.

Thanks much!



From Mr. Erich Schwab (Scoutmaster):

I just did some quick reckoning and realized that I have spent over half my life as a Scout or Scout Leader, starting as a Wolf Cub Scout in 1973 up to my present responsibilities as Scoutmaster of Troop 695. But that chapter of my life is coming to a close, and soon I will be passing the Scoutmaster flame into the very capable hands of Mr. Tom Gunderson. This is a bittersweet moment for me as I look forward to new opportunities for my time commitments, but will sorely miss the good leaders I have had the chance to work with and the outstanding youth I had the privilege to hopefully have a positive influence upon.

Troop 695 has never been stronger. We have a good mix of veteran as well as new adult leaders, and almost all leadership positions are filled. We have a large number of younger scouts who are getting quality experiences, advancing in rank, and most importantly, building in character. Our older scouts continue to rise to the Eagle Aerie: at last count I have done 13 Eagle Scoutmaster Conferences since fall of 2010. Many troops only produce one or two Eagles a year – what an excellent bunch of high achievers we have!

Normally we teach our scouts to “Leave No Trace” and practice low-impact camping, but in this case I sincerely hope I have left a trace on you all. Good Luck Tom – keep the flame bright!

Yours in Scouting,
Mr. Schwab



Editor's Note:

Thank you, Scoutmaster Schwab, for your thoughtful writings for The Reconnaissance during your tenure. More importantly, thank you for the positive impact you have made on the Scouts' lives.

Leadership Reports

From Benjamin Nichols (Historian):

Hi troop 695. This is your historian Benjamin Nichols.

We have had a great month in scouts. I loved the shooting theme, and I can't wait for the chess themed month in December. I'm sure that will be great.

We had a great time getting the tree lot open. I have already worked a shift.

Don't forget the upcoming recruiting event. It will be so much fun. If you haven't been before, I think you might like it even if you are afraid of heights.

There were also some scouts who helped paint curbs as a service project for Prairie Lutheran Church. Some pictures from that are posted below. Thanks for helping, guys!

Your historian,

Benjamin Nichols

Editor's Note:

In his email to Scoutmaster Schwab, Mr. Vince Vanella, the organizer of the church exterior cleanup event, commented that "they did a great job painting the curbs."



Leadership Reports

From Turner Gunderson (Assistant Senior Patrol Leader):

Hey, it's Turner, your ASPL. Hope everyone had a great thanksgiving!

As many of you know, the tree lot started up this month, and it's a great way to hang out and make money, so remember to work there!

Also, in December we will be working on the Chess merit badge, led by the Thunder cats and my dad, the merit badge counselor. Come to these meetings to take on fellow scouts at chess, a good battle of the mind. Also be geared up for the lock-in this month.

Well, I'm excited for this coming month of scouting.

See you guys at the meetings and tree lot!

Turner



From Ben Stone (Raccoons Troop Guide):

Hi, its been great this past month. The Raccoons are getting requirements signed off and advancing in rank.

Keep going, Raccoons!

Ben Stone



From Ben Giles (Flaming Arrows Patrol Leader):

Hello everyone,

This month the Flaming Arrows had a lot of fun with all of the meetings for rifle shooting. We are excited for the lock-in and for the chess merit badge.

I am sorry that I have not been at many of the recent meetings. I have been busy with drama so I have not been able to attend. I am excited to see you all on Tuesday.

Ben Giles



Announcements

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

Details Emerging for Merit Badge Madness 2012!

Merit Badge Madness 2012 is growing ever closer, so it's time to reveal part of the plan:

- 1) Merit badge classes will begin on January 31.
- 2) Twelve merit badges will be offered, including six for Eagle Scout rank.
- 3) The retreat will be for two days and one night at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI (Please note that this is one night shorter than previous years).
- 4) Saturday evening's entertainment will include a salute to the Academy Awards.
- 5) A group outing at Afton Alps for those interested will take place Sunday after the retreat.

More details to follow ... Stay tuned, and feel free to contact me for more information.

Marshall "Mad" Ness

Mobile: 651.485.6598

Email: mness@powerhousetg.com

From Mr. Tong Stone (Treasurer):

Scout Accounts Gone Green

Detailed scout account balance sheets had been printed on paper and distributed to ships on a quarterly basis. In November 2011, we adopted a new approach to provide those updates. Scout families now receive **monthly** emails instead, containing all the earnings and charges to the scout accounts in a Microsoft Excel file attached in the email.

The first email distribution occurred on November 28th. If you did not receive this information, or would like to have this information sent to a different email address, or additional email addresses, please contact me at tss.ljs@gmail.com.

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.



Troop Leadership

Scoutmaster		Erich Schwab
Patrol Coaches	Lightning Sharks	Paul Anderson Jim Lovekin
	Raccoons	Dean Sather Justin Pratt
	Wolverines	Joel Nichols Dan Edlund
	Flaming Arrows	Tom Gunderson Paul Kronlokken
	Thunder Cats	Doug McKenney
	Panthers	Mike Madsen
	Timber Cobras	Burt Boudreaux Erich Schwab Mark Kronlokken
Troop Positions	Senior Patrol Leader	Michael Watras
	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
	Bugler	William O'Malley
Patrol Leaders	Timber Cobras	Josh Boudreaux
	Panthers	Aaron Halpin
	Thunder Cats	Nic McKenney
	Flaming Arrows	Ben Giles Isaac Welsch (APL)
	Wolverines	Logan Sperr Wyatt Edlund (APL)
	Raccoons	Duncan Sather
	Lightning Sharks	Noah Otis
Instructors	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>

Troop Committee Chair		Mike Hoerle
Activities	Chair	John Lewis
	Camping	Michael Wiig
	Fire Arm Safety	Paul Anderson Win Giles
	Chaplain	Doug McKenney
	Service Projects	Trudy Gunderson
	Philmont	Don Qually
	Many Point	Tom & Trudy Gunderson
	Order of the Arrow	Michael Wiig
	Quartermaster	David Straight
	COH Coordinator	Jennifer Nichols
	Adult Leader Training	Michael Wiig
	Advancement	Chair
Merit Badge Coordinator		Jim Horn
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
Records & Communications	Chair	Ellen Hoerle
	Medical Forms	Annette Anderson
	Newsletter	Tong Stone
	Troop Directory/Troopmaster	Shenglan Long
	Webmaster	Doug McKenney
	New Scout Welcome Binder	Ellen Hoerle
	COH Program Handout	Ellen Hoerle
Finance	Chair	Collette Schleiss
	Treasurer/Scout Accounts	Tong Stone
	Check Writer	Doug McKenney John Lewis
	Christmas Tree Lot	Dan Edlund
	Fall Wreath Sales	John & Mary Jean Watras
	Flying Cloud Snack Shack	Kelly Lindquist Connie & Paul Groe
	Popcorn Sales	Julie McKenney
	Special Events	Connie & Paul Groe
	T-Shirt Sales	David Straight

Calendar and Bulletin Board Information

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December Events at a Glance

December 1	Mustang District Roundtable
December 6	Troop Meeting/Parents Meeting
December 13	PLC/ASM/Committee Meeting
December 13	Eagle Court of Honor: John Krolokken
December 16	Lock In
December 20	Troop Court of Honor
December 28	<i>Reconnaissance</i> Articles Due

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 cash, 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. 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 Wednesday, December 28th. Please email your articles to 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 and click on the "Newsletter" link in the left side column.

Advancement Contacts

- Advancement – Jim Horn
- 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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