



# THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

February 2011; Volume 16, Issue 2

## January Highlights

**Theme: Ice Fishing by the Thunder Cats**

- Jan 2 Tree Lot Cleanup
- Jan 4 Troop Meeting/Parents Meeting
- Jan 6 Mustang District Roundtable
- Jan 11 Troop Meeting
- Jan 18 Broom Ball
- Jan 22-23 Ice Fishing at Lake Mille Lacs
- Jan 25 PLC/JLT/ASM/Committee Meeting

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## **Leadership Reports: Ice Fishing**

*From Lars Henderson (Thunder Cats Patrol Leader):*

The ice fishing campout was by far one of the best winter campouts I have ever been on!

The whole troop combined caught about 10 fish, two of them walleye that were 20 and 21.5 inches long, which means we could not keep them due to fishing regulations, but they were incredible to see. We also had some interesting stories to bring home as well, such as dropping a spool of about 700 yards of fishing line down one of the fishing holes and wrapping it all back up on a chair and putting it back on the spool, which somehow stayed tapped during the hour and a half it was underwater.



The next great thing about this campout was the cabins. We had a radio, table, stove, heater, six chairs, 2 bunk beds one queen sized one twin, an indoor bathroom, 8 fishing holes with covers, and a TV without reception, which is not a bad thing. In fact, the cabins were so nice we didn't get up to get the fish we caught on our rattle reels and ended up catching the 21.5-inch walleye after we untangled the other three lines that caught on each other throughout the night. Even though a mishap occurred every here and there, they just made it more fun, and I could not think of a single thing I would change for next year.



# Leadership Reports: Ice Fishing!



# Leadership Reports: Ice Fishing!



# Leadership Reports

*From Ben Stone (Cooking Instructor):*

Hey Scouts! Here are some cooking tips:

- If you are cooking something sticky, grease the cooking surface first.
- The internet is a great place for delicious recipes.
- Always ask for help if you need it. Safety first.

## Announcements

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

### February in Troop 695 means Merit Badge Madness

Troop 695 kicks off its annual quest for merit badges in February, as Merit Badge Madness is set to launch.

To those unfamiliar with Merit Badge Madness, here's a quick synopsis: it's an event which runs every Tuesday night in February in which scouts pursue three merit badges. Scouts can choose from four different classes on each of the first three Tuesdays, or 12 total. The fourth Tuesday of the month is an optional meeting for those taking more involved classes, like the "Citizenship" merit badges. Six merit badges required for the Eagle Scout rank are offered during this time. The festivities finish up with a retreat at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI the final weekend of the month.

The weekend retreat includes merit badge classes, plenty of outdoor activities, and tons of fun with friends. Camp St. Croix is a first-class facility that offers clean cabins and study environs, tasty food and excellent outdoor facilities like playing fields and sledding hills. There will also be a skiing and snowboarding outing at Afton Alps for those interested in a vertical adventure, and for those taking the Snow Sports merit badge.

A big shout-out goes to the adults teaching the merit badges classes this month. There would be no Merit Badge Madness without them ... thank you!

Those with questions about the month long festivities should contact Marshall "Mad" Ness at 651-485-6598 or via e-mail:

[powerhousetg@gmail.com](mailto:powerhousetg@gmail.com).



# Announcements

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



As Troop 695's most-recent former Scoutmaster, I often get the question: "how's retirement going?" Well, I've come to think of it not as "retirement," but as a job change. In addition to coming to as many troop events as I can, I've become involved in Northern Star Council's premier training program for adults: Wood Badge. So far, I'm booked to staff courses through June of 2012.

Northern Star Council strongly suggests that every adult leader get position-specific training within six months of the start of his or her assignment, followed by Wood Badge training within two years. (District Executives and other Scouting professionals are expected to go, too.)

Leaders, please get trained for the benefit of the youth we serve. If our leaders are not trained, how do we know they're delivering the Scouting program in the best way possible? Our troop has been blessed with many fine adult leaders. Think of how much better it could be if all of us took full advantage of the available training.

When you get Wood Badge training, it will help you in your Scouting role, at home, at work, and in your other contacts in the community. I can guarantee you will have fun during the course.

A special winter course is coming up soon, February 4 – 6 and March 4 – 6, 2011. This could be especially attractive for the non-camper – you'll stay in cabins for both weekends. No mosquitoes, either. John Lewis and I are helping staff the spring course, April 15 – 17 and May 13 – 15, 2011. (One weekend in cabins, and one weekend camping outdoors.)

More information here: <http://training.nsbbsa.org/info/WoodBadge.aspx>. And you are always welcome to ask me ([joe@polta.com](mailto:joe@polta.com)) questions.

I'm proud to be a part of Troop 695. We are doing a great job of preparing young men for adulthood. Let's work together to improve our Scouts' experience by getting every adult leader fully trained.

Joe Polta  
Assistant Scoutmaster



# 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	Paul Henderson
	Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders	Aaron Halpin Tom Polta Ben Schliess
	Junior Assistant Scoutmasters	<i>Open</i>
	Webmaster	Tyler Schwab
	Quartermaster	Will Johnson
	Scribe	Benjamin Nichols
	Historian	Turner Gunderson
	Librarian	Brian Madsen
	Bugler	<i>Open</i>
	Troop Guides	<i>Open</i>
	<b>Patrol Leaders</b>	Thundering Scorpion Dragons
Timber Cobras		John Kronlokken
Panthers		<i>Open</i>
Thunder Cats		Lars Henderson
Flaming Arrows		Brian Ness
<b>Instructors</b>	Wolverines	Wyatt Edlund Benjamin Nichols
	Camping	<i>Open</i>
	Cooking	Ben Stone
	Fire Safety	<i>Open</i>
	First Aid	Michael Watras
	Knife/Axe Safety	<i>Open</i>
	Knots	<i>Open</i>

<b>Troop Committee Chair</b>		Mike Hoerle
<b>Finance</b>	Finance Chair	Collette Schleiss
	Treasurer	Tong Stone
	Check Writers	Jessica Poirier John Lewis
	Friends of Scouting	Jessica Poirier
	Fundraising	Annette Anderson
	Fall Wreath Sales	Mary Jean Watras
	Flying Cloud	Annette Anderson
	Special Events	Annette Anderson
	Christmas Tree Lot	Dan Edlund
	Popcorn Sales	Julie McKenney
	Aluminum Cans	<i>Open</i>
	<b>Advancement</b>	Advancement Chair
Merit Badge Coordinator		Cindy Henderson
BOR Coordinator		Marshall Ness
Eagle BOR Coordinator		Nancy Madsen
Merit Badge Madness		Marshall Ness
Leadership Goals Coordinators		Burt Boudreaux John Lewis
EP Foundation Liaison		<i>Open</i>
Recruiting Coordinators		Burt Boudreaux Don Qually
<b>Information &amp; Communications</b>	Information & Comm. Chair	Ellen Hoerle
	Medical Forms	Karen Polta
	Troop Directory	Karen Zemlin
	Troopmaster	Karen Zemlin
	Newsletter	Tong Stone
	Webmaster	Doug McKenney
	New Scout Handbook	Ellen Hoerle
	COH Program Handout	Ellen Hoerle
<b>Activities</b>	Activities Chair	John Lewis
	Many Point	Trudy Gunderson Tom Gunderson
	High Adventure	John Beauchamp
	Quartermaster	David Straight
	Service Projects	Trudy Gunderson
	COH Coordinator	Christy Johnson
	Camping	Michael Wiig
	Fire Arm Safety	John Beauchamp
	Order of the Arrow	Michael Wiig
	Adult Leader Training	Michael Wiig
	Chaplain	Doug McKenney

# Calendar and Bulletin Board Information

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## February Events at a Glance

February 1	Troop Meeting/Parents Meeting
February 3	Mustang District Roundtable
February 8	Troop Meeting
February 12	Committee Meeting & Get Together
February 15	Troop Meeting
February 22	Troop Meeting
February 25-27	Merit Badge Madness at Camp St. Croix
February 27	<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 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 Mary Munkvold at [Munkvold1@hotmail.com](mailto:Munkvold1@hotmail.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, February 27th. Please email your articles to [tongshilijinshu@yahoo.com](mailto:tongshilijinshu@yahoo.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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