

THE PADDLE



Monthly Newsletter of the Black Creek District, Seneca Waterways Council

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November, 2011



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DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE

1st Wed of every month at 7:00pm
Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
This RT: Wed, Nov. 2nd 7:00pm
Next RT: Wed, Dec. 7th 7:00pm
Contact: Dave Levesque

Come join us at Roundtable for an informative meeting, training breakout and networking opportunity for all Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venturing volunteers. Every unit should be represented!

VENTURING ROUNDTABLE

LDS Church, 460 Kreag Road, Pittsford
Next RT: Thu, Nov. 17th 7:00pm
Contact: Hiram Lyon

DISTRICT COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

2nd Wed of every month at 7:00pm
RIT NTID Building Room 1450
Next Meeting: Wed, Nov 9th 7:00pm
Contact: Marc Duclos
Contact: Dave Levesque

The District Committee Meeting is a planning meeting for all members of the District Committee, and is open to all volunteers who wish to attend.

The District Commissioners Meeting is a planning meeting for all Commissioners.

Re-Charter Time

By Dave Levesque

It's hard to believe, but it is that time of the Scouting year again where we need to re-charter. Our goal, like last year, as a Council and a District is to submit our charters by December 31, 2011.

We are going to try something new for Black Creek District this year to help Units along with re-chartering. Our December Roundtable (Wednesday, December 7th) will feature our Re-chartering Extravaganza. We are going to shake things up a bit from our typical meeting flow and instead create an opportunity for Scouters to learn more about each of the functions provided by our District Committee via a series of informational presentations – much like we have successfully used at our Webelos RUSH events.

Each function will prepare and present information regarding upcoming events or activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about each function and how it can be an aid to them or their Units., sign up for events, or learn more about function roles they may have an interest in volunteering to fill.

We will also set up multiple Re-Chartering Help Stations, where a Commissioner can help your Unit complete the re-chartering process. We will also have sign-ups for December charter help/submission sessions.

For many Units, re-chartering has become a straightforward process. In your re-charter packets, you

will find all the necessary forms and guidelines that you should need to complete your Unit's Charter. We have included a Unit Re-Charter Checklist in every packet to assist you in organizing the necessary information to complete the Charter with the least amount of effort or frustration.

In addition to the Charter Help Stations and District Committee Information booths, we have some special features planned for the December Roundtable as well. We will be staging a Raingutter Regatta competition, using the new catamaran style boats. Bring along a favorite Holiday Card and we will help you fashion it into a sail that you can race against a competitor. We have a few more fun twists in the works to make the evening festive, fun and a great opportunity to share in the fellowship of your peers.

A very well-known-to-you Scouter will be receiving one of our highest recognitions that evening. We hope you will plan to come, and perhaps bring someone new to our Roundtable, to share in this very special ceremony.

As you begin preparations to complete your re-chartering process, please recall that your Unit Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioners and I are available to lend assistance and answer any questions. Our contact information is available on our District website if you need to look us up.



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Webelos RUSH!

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Commissioner's Minute

By Dave Levesque

Many Packs and Troops share a Scouting tradition in their meetings called a Cubmaster or Scoutmaster's Minute. I would like to take some creative license and extend a Commissioner's Minute as it might relate to our own Roundtable meetings.

There is little doubt that this is a very busy time of the Scouting Calendar. As the school year resumes, we are all busy re-starting our Scouting programs and executing our recruiting, fund-raising, advancement, training and outing events. In the midst of all this, we are also asked to re-charter. At such busy times, re-chartering can seem like just a complicated administrative task. Upon deeper reflection, it really is a fundamental building block that makes our Scouting organization very unique from other youth programs.

Since the introduction of Scouting to America, the structure of Units has been based on a mutually beneficial coalition between the Boy Scouts of America and a local organization that finds the sponsoring of a Unit to be a critical element within their own program to develop youth. There are no nationally-sponsored Units in the B.S.A. – as if there could be franchise Units and corporate Units like we were a Burger King or a McDonalds. The creation and continued existence of a Scouting Unit requires a charter organization to stand behind it.

All too often, when re-chartering becomes simply an administrative inconvenience within the Scouting calendar

of a Unit – a distance can grow between the mutual aspirations of the Unit and the Charter organization. As this distance widens, Units can often find themselves “on the outs” with their charter organizations, who can sometimes come to see the Scouts as “those loud kids who break things” versus seeing the energy and program provided by their Units as being an important part of their own ministry or mission.

Each re-chartering offers an opportunity for re-commitment between the Unit and the charter organization, but sometimes the fullness of our to-do lists limits this re-commitment to a mere step of collecting required signatures.

This re-chartering season, I ask you to consider taking a little extra time and effort to re-connect with your chartering partner. Re-establish the common bonds of purpose that unite the two organizations towards the advantage of our youth – and our collective futures. I think that both your Unit members and your charter organization will be surprised by the extra energy and synergy that will result from this important step in the re-chartering process. It has been one of the secret ingredients to the success of the Boy Scouts of America since its inception and remains an important part of our legacy to the future of our country.

November Roundtable

By Dave Levesque

Black Creek District returns to Wheatland-Chili High School for our November Roundtable. Our Roundtables are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month – so our next meeting is on November 2nd. Our formal opening starts at 7pm, in the Cafeteria and we will have you headed home by 9pm.

Our Roundtable mission is to provide a fun venue where event and training information can be obtained, adult recognition can be celebrated, techniques to make our Scouter roles easier or more effective can be exchanged and opportunities to network and share fellowship with other Scouters and Units is provided. Our Roundtables are open to all Scouting volunteers and Scouts.

With the end of the year fast approaching, this is an excellent time of the year to re-visit the 2011 Journey-To-Excellence objectives for your Unit. See how your Unit compares against this national benchmark for quality Units. There is still time to complete actions to direct your score towards your desired level of achievement. Achieving one of the Journey-To-Excellence levels is a tangible way to build esteem and to demonstrate to those considering joining your Unit that you are on the right track. A patch is available that can be placed on the Field Uniform so that members of your Unit can wear them with

pride. Please see your Commissioner if you have any questions regarding the interpretation of the scorecard.

Dan Scurlock has confirmed that we will offer Youth Protection Training during the Roundtable, should there be any volunteers who favor the live class over the online training. I have taken both versions and while the online version is effective and convenient, I believe you will receive a richer understanding about the whys and hows of Youth Protection if you take the time to sit in Dan's session. Dan is not only very knowledgeable on the topic, he is also a seasoned and effective presenter.

Chemical Fuels training will also be available at the November Roundtable.

See Rob Keister's article for more details regarding our Cub Scout Roundtable. He and his Roundtable Staff have been hard at work creating content that will deliver high impact to our Packs. They also work very hard to make the delivery interesting and entertaining.

Our Boy Scout Roundtable will continue our focus on recruiting to strengthen our ranks and also increase sources for future volunteer leaders. Adam Cregg will be presenting materials on how to effectively market your

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Units: P100		

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November Roundtable, from page 2

program. We also have a very special guest, Adam's father, (also an Eagle Scout and well experienced Scoutmaster) who will share some of his approaches for building quality Units through strong program and effective recruiting. You won't want to miss these stories and experienced advice. We will also reserve some time in our session for some Order of the Arrow topics.

Our break-out sessions will run a little shorter this Roundtable for a very special reason. One of our District's finest leaders, Mark Huber, will be recognized in a Wood Badge Beading Ceremony. Mark has been a Cubmaster and Pack Trainer in Pack 178. He is currently an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 178. Mark has also found time to volunteer as a member of Black Creek's District Committee, developing powerful communication tools to serve our Units, like our website, newsletter and e-mail distribution capabilities. In 2011, Mark was awarded the District Award of Merit. He has made quite an impact on our District and Scouting – but I sense the best is yet to come.

You may not realize that the Course Director for Mark Huber's Wood Badge course is Black Creek's very own

Webelos RUSH! is coming soon!*By Mark Huber*

Webelos *RUSH!* is a district-wide event where Webelos Scouts (first and second year) and their families come to meet the Boy Scout troops in their area. Troops setup displays and activities to show Webelos Scouts all about the fun and adventure that awaits them when they join a Boy Scout troop. Webelos *RUSH!* is just a month away! It will be held on **Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00am to 1:00pm** at the Washington Irving school gym (2400 Chili Avenue).

If you're wondering what to expect, here's a quick run-down: Troops will arrive early and setup their displays and activities. Their displays will be laid out according to the geographic area where they are located. Webelos arrive at 10:00am. We'll have an opening ceremony and then the Webelos will visit with the troops in "round-robin" style. Webelos do not have to visit every troop, but we will be giving them an incentive to visit as many as they can! As Webelos visit the troops, each troop will have a game, activity or demonstration that shows some of the fun things that they will do when they become Boy Scouts. Troop leaders will be on hand to meet with the boys and their families and to answer any questions. They will have a flier with troop information and will invite the Webelos to visit a troop meeting or event. We'll wrap up by 1:00pm. (Webelos will not be required to stay the

Mary Royce. Mary's husband, Craig Royce, will play a prominent role in the next Wood Badge course, offered in the Spring of 2012. Presently, both Mary and Craig also serve as Assistant District Commissioners for Black Creek. Our District is blessed to have many dedicated and talented volunteers.

The Wood Badge course prepares Scout Leaders to create a vision of how they might leave Scouting better than they found it. Through the topics and exercises shared in the course, participants learn how to define their vision and then create and execute a plan to achieve it. Since so much of Scouting today is getting things done with teams, techniques to facilitate this process are a key part of the course. Upon the completion of the course and five improvement projects (referred to as tickets), participants are awarded their beads. Many Wood Badgers have found that the course content benefits facets of their lives well beyond Scouting. Ask a Wood Badger about further details about the course, if you find your curiosity aroused.

Come and share this important recognition ceremony – you won't be disappointed.

entire time if they have visited all of the troops that they wish to visit.)

Webelos leaders: Just mark the date on your calendar and get ready to bring your Webelos Scouts and their families out for some fun! Pre-registration is not required and the event is free.

Troop leaders: Please register your troop by November 19th. We recommend that the committee chairperson, Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol leader attend, but you may send anyone that you like (up to four people).

Contact the event chairperson, Mark Huber, at 889.0787 or mhuber@wilmacco.com for more information.

**Merit Badge University***By Charles Arnold*

Black Creek's Merit Badge University was delayed this fall due to resource and facilities conflicts. Black Creek's Steve Cali has volunteered to get Merit Badge University

back for a to-be-determined January date. Please be on the lookout for an update on this popular outing!

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Klondike Derby 2012

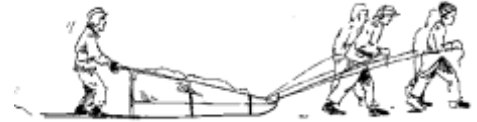
By Charles Arnold

Save the Date!

Our annual Klondike Derby will again be at Mendon Ponds Youth Campground January 27th (Friday night camping) and January 28th (Event). The Event Coordinator is Black Creek's Chris McKean, and along with the usual events we will undoubtedly have an exciting new Twist or two!

Fliers will be sent out and also available at December Roundtable and at Webelos RUSH (Dec. 3rd). Plan ahead

accordingly. No cub-specific events are planned but Webelos, their leaders and parents are welcome to compete as a group or with a Troop. Fee is \$7/person camping or not. A lunch will be provided.



Membership Report

By Jeremy Wyatt

Overall, our Cub Scout Fall Roundup resulted in more sign ups than last year. That said, some units still had disappointing results. We are continuing to work on ways to help you bring in more new scouts through the Halloween wrappers, the Bring-a-Buddy program, and handing out flyers through popcorn sales and other events. We are also following up on families that signed in at a joining event but haven't yet registered.

At last month's roundtable, Pack leaders gave us a lot of useful feedback on what worked well for them this year and what didn't, along with some creative ideas that will be discussed and considered for next year's program. All of you have worked hard this year and our program doesn't work without dedicated leaders like you. We're part of a terrific district and I'm confident we'll get better and better because of your participation.

Many troops are already working on transition activities that will give Webelos scouts an opportunity to see what their troops are all about and get a little taste of the Boy Scout experience. Here are some ideas that I recently came across on a Boy Scout discussion group: Go to local schools and have a demo in one of their halls or outside the building after school for the cub level kids. Ask Pack leaders if you can visit and set up some demos at a meeting. Bring boys in uniform with their gear. Set up a Leave No Trace campsite and explain why it's important. Set up the tents, camp chairs, kitchen area. If you have time, cook a Dutch oven dessert. See if you can borrow a tepee and set it up. Have a scout dress up and talk about Indian lore. Visuals are wonderful for the boys. For instance, show them a fully loaded backpack for a trip to Philmont. If you have pictures from your trips (a few, don't drown them with a long slide show or they'll lose interest), show them the places they could go. Show them the things your troop does a lot of like hiking, biking, or canoeing. Taking pictures is a good job to give one or more of your scouts. They can capture the things they think makes the troop fun.

Of course, you want to let potential scouts see how your meetings are run and invite them in not just as observers but have them really take part. Have your boys help the Webelos fulfill some their advancement requirements or activity badges. Talk to your SPL's and help them find ways to emphasize that they run the meetings. You can't just tell people that you have a boy run program, you need to show them. Set up a weekend camping trip nearby and invite the Webelos to join you. Make sure you provide an option to come for activities without staying overnight. Some families might not be quite ready for the overnight experience (especially in cold weather!) so this can increase your participation.

Get some of your boys trained to be Den Chiefs. This will allow your troop to be of service to the Pack, stay in touch with their plans, and build a relationship with the boys and leaders. Boys will follow their friends.

The Klondike Derby isn't that far off. Invite Webelos to join your troop at the Klondike now and invite them to help get your sledges ready. Let them help out while you practice your Dutch oven cooking, fire building, or rescue carries (let them be the victim). Really help them to feel like they're already a part of your troop.

Whatever events you run, keep them real. If you put on a big show for recruiting and don't have a consistent program, you'll likely lose those boys in 12-18 months. If you're afraid that your program isn't engaging enough, maybe it's time to look at it and make some changes. Something else to keep in mind is that your prospective scouts may be making their decisions about which troop to join a lot earlier than you might expect. Don't restrict your invitations to just the Webelos II scouts. For that matter, have your boy scouts invite a friend to a fun event like the Klondike. They just might get hooked.



Wood Badge Q&A



What are some of the things I will learn about during Wood Badge?

- Stages of group development
- Different leadership styles and when to use them
- Communicating effectively
- Managing conflict
- Developing a vision of success and a plan for achieving it
- Listening to learn
- Including diverse ideas and people
- Solving problems and making decisions
- Coaching and mentoring

What does Wood Badge cost? The cost for Wood Badge 2012 will be \$245, payable in installments. This includes

food and accommodations for both weekends. Scholarships and other opportunities for funding exist. Contact the Course Director for more information.

What is the time commitment to Wood Badge?

1. Practical phase: Two 3-day week-ends at Camp Babcock-Hovey (April 27-29, May 19-21, 2012)
2. Application phase: You will have 18 months to 'work your ticket' – a plan to apply what you've learned to your unit so the Scouts will benefit from your experience

Who can I contact for more information? Jim Roth, Course Director, Crew277@aol.com, (585)225-7216

Cub Scouts

By Rob Keister



Cub In Camp catapulted to a good time. Thank you Troop 31 for bring a catapult, a French-designed one matter in fact. Be able to see how it works and to watch a soccer ball fling in the air, Wow! Lots of happy faces were found, going from one station to the next. Air rifles, bow and arrows, and fishing rounded out our fun. Topping it off was a haunted house. Rochester Kung Fu did a program which allowed the Scout to learn some Kung Fu techniques, a program that was not a demonstration but an hands on experience.

Wisse, Andy Thompson, Peter Reeb, and Steve Gloss for all the things you do. I also want to thank Dave Levesque for having confidence in me, in a very important role. I want to thank my wife and son for allowing me to be involved in Cub Scout leadership.

The core value for November is Citizenship. Thinking of November, I think about thankfulness. I thank Lorry

For the next few months we will be learning about the Journey To Excellence. Soon we will to come the re-chartering. I cannot believe it will happen so fast. It seems like a few days ago it was September and we were just starting! How far we have come and what a great journey.

The Black Creek District serves the towns of Chili, Gates, Henrietta, Riga (including Churchville), Rush and Wheatland (including Scottsville).

THE PADDLE is published on the first Wednesday of every month except in July and August. Article submissions are due ten days prior to publishing and may be submitted to the District Communications Chair.

THE PADDLE is distributed electronically to all Scouters on the district e-mail distribution list and in paper format at district Roundtables. It can also be downloaded from the Black Creek District page at www.senecawaterways.org.

For more information, contact district communications chair Mark Huber.

Calendar of Events

For more details, consult the online calendar at www.senecawaterways.org

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
November	2	7:00pm	Roundtable	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
	3		Last day to return unsold popcorn	
	4		Popcorn take orders due	
	9	7:00pm	District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450
	12		BALOO	Powder Mills Park, Rand Shelter
	14		Popcorn Show & Sell payments due	
	15		Article deadline, SENECA WATERWAYS CURRENTS	
	17	7:00pm	Venturing Roundtable	LDS Church, 460 Kreag Road, Pittsford
	18		Popcorn take orders distribution	
	27		Article Deadline for THE PADDLE	
December	3	10:00am	Webelos RUSH!	Washington Irving school gym, 2400 Chili Ave.
	7	7:00pm	Roundtable / Re-Chartering Extravaganza	Wheatland-Chili High School Gym
	14	7:00pm	District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450
	15		Article deadline, SENECA WATERWAYS CURRENTS	
	15		Popcorn take order payments due	
January	25		Article Deadline for THE PADDLE	
	4	7:00pm	Roundtable	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
	11		District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450