

THE PADDLE



Monthly Newsletter of the Black Creek District, Seneca Waterways Council

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Volume 2, Number 4
December, 2011



DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE

1st Wed of every month at 7:00pm
Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
This RT: Wed, Dec 7th 7:00pm
Next RT: Wed, Jan 4th 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, Jan 19th 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, Dec 14th 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.

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New Youth Protection Training

By Dave Levesque

No doubt, many of you are aware of the troubling course of events that have played out at Penn State and Syracuse University in the recent news. As adults, dedicated to the service of our youth, it is impossible not to be unsettled by the progressive realization of child abuse that was allegedly committed by a Coach whom people had placed in a position of high trust. Further, it is difficult to witness the institutional damage that has been caused due to either the lack of appropriate action, if not the willful intent to cover-up the issue.

As we try to make sense of it all, I would ask all of you to consider two courses of action. The first is to simply pray for strength, comfort and mercy to those now in need. This is in keeping with our Scout Law. The second is to make the personal commitment to complete the revised Youth Protection Training (YPT) - now available either online or offered at our Roundtables and formal Council Training events.

As you may recall, you must re-take YPT every two years to remain current as a Scouting volunteer. Further, YPT is program specific - so if you have been in Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts, but are now volunteering in the Venturing program, you must take the YPT for Venturing as well. The new YPT addresses new content that you will want to be aware of to more fully serve our youth effectively. The content contained in this new training also better protects you as a Scouting volunteer. In addition to prior YPT content, the new training covers additional topics like bullying, grooming and describes new responsibilities for volunteers with respect to reporting incidents.

Commit to do something pro-active and positive as a personal response to the Penn State / Syracuse University incidents - take the new YPT now.

Awards and Knots

From The Training Times, Fall 2011 at scouting.org

The national council's awards committee recently conducted a review of the hundreds of awards presented to Scouts and adults in the BSA. Many recommendations were made to simplify and update procedures, and the awards themselves.

Among the recommendations was the update of some awards and/or the knots that represent them on the uniform. These include the training awards and the Cub Scouting awards.

While some of the Cub Scouting knots are being eliminated, the awards will still be available. The Cubmaster will once again use the Scouter's Key knot.

The Cub Scouter and Pack Trainer Awards will again use the Scouter's Training Award knot. The Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, and Webelos Den Leader's Awards will use the Den Leader's Award knot. Devices to be worn on the knots will be available to indicate which awards were earned.

Scouters who have earned the awards will still be able to wear the old knots as long as they are available.

The training team is currently reviewing and updating the requirements for the awards. So watch for news, but we expect the details in early 2012.

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Black Creek Klondike Derby

By Charles Arnold

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 will undoubtedly have an exciting new Twist or two.

Flyers will be sent out and also available at December Roundtable and Webelos Rush Dec. 3rd. Plan ahead accordingly. No cub specific events are planned but Webelos, 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.

Merit Badge University

By Charles Arnold

Black Creeks MBU was delayed this fall due to resource and facilities conflicts. Black Creeks Steve Cali has volunteered to get MBU back for a TBD January date.

Please be on the look-out for an update on this popular outing.

Membership Report - December 2011

By Jeremy Wyatt

Cub Scouts

Popcorn is finished and you are focusing on your regular meetings now. Still, keep in mind that inviting new boys to visit is something you want to do all year round. It's likely you have some fun events coming up. Remind your boys to invite a friend to your holiday parties, outings, and any other events that could get the boys' friends excited about what you do.

If you still have any applications to turn in, please get them to Adam Cregg as soon as possible. This coming roundtable is focused on re-chartering so you'll want to have all your new applications in. If you have any parents that are thinking about becoming a leader in your pack, see if you can get them to register now.

Boys Scouts

The event will have past when you read this but I hope you took advantage of Webelos RUSH. Feedback from last year's event was overwhelmingly positive from Webelos families so the new boys were looking forward to seeing you there.

Between district events and your own, coordinate with packs near you to have some fun. Have the Webelos join you for the Klondike. They will feel more like a part of your troop if they're involved helping you get ready for it.

The cub scout leaders need to know who you are and what events you have planned. Remember that cub leaders often change each year. Make sure they have your contact information and some kind of calendar of events. Don't bank on one event either. We all have busy schedules so you may not get all the Webelos to come together.

If the activities are appropriate, don't limit your invitations to Webelos only. It never hurts to make friends with the younger scouts. Also, try to teach your boys that they should invite friends whenever the opportunity arises. Don't necessarily invite new boys to a "scouting" event as such, or just to join scouts. You have no idea what they think scouting is. Just invite them to have some fun.

Don't expect instant results but year round recruiting will pay off in the long run.

Venture Scouts

This month, I drew upon some recent discussions from the scouting blogs. Think about your crew. What are you known for? If you have trouble answering that question, you have a topic for discussion. Some crews do a variety of activities, some focus on shooting, or horsemanship, or SCUBA. The first requirement is that your crew has a solid program of activities. Recruiting will prove frustrating if the youth come, look around, shrug their shoulders, and leave. They can come as a guest on one outing. If they want more, all they have to do is fill out an application.

But there's more to your program than just fun events. How about your service projects? When someone asks what you're about, don't forget to make that aspect of your crew quite prominent. A candidate and their parents might be more motivated by the service aspects of your program. You could have your members recruit their friends to make holiday meals or work on a house for Habitat for Humanity. The friends that come for that type of event would likely make good crew members. Many schools require community service hours so there are youth out there looking for things they can do. Why not have it be with you?

As I mentioned for cub and boy scouts, recruit throughout the year. Don't limit yourself to "Scout" activities either. Here's a direct quote from one post "... the best recruiting we have had was when our youth got together as a group of friends outside of Scouting." If they like hanging out together, the rest will happen naturally. If your crew is coed, girls are a particularly under-served group. Sisters of boy scouts have seen what their brothers do in scouting, and most are envious. Once they see that Venturers can do even more than Boy Scouts, they'll be asking you for an application.

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Membership, from page 2

Once youth graduate from 8th grade and are 13 years old, they are eligible to join your crew. Plan some events for the last few weeks of school. Timing is important. Show them what you're about before they are drawn into the wide variety of extra-curricular activities they will be offered once they start High School.

Advancement Update

By Dan Scurlock

At the November Roundtable, it was announced that the National Office has issued a revised "Guide to Advancement" and a revised "Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook".

It is strongly encouraged that each scouting unit download a copy of the new Advancement Guide. It is the most comprehensive revision in over twenty (20) years. The document can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.

As for the revised Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, any Life Scout who is currently working on an approved project, they would continue with the paperwork which has been approved. However, any Life Scout who is ready to start the process of obtaining approvals will need to utilize the revised Workbook. The revised workbook can be found at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-927_fillable.pdf.

Do you have a web site? It's pretty inexpensive to start one these days. Keep it up to date with an on line calendar and highlights of recent events. When they see all the things you've been doing, they'll know you've got a good crew.

Additionally, it is not too early to start preparing the paperwork for that individual you would like to nominate for the prestigious Silver Beaver Award. This is the highest award a Council Office can present to a volunteer. Fortunately, our Council is blessed to have a lot of scouters who give so much to our scouting program. Unfortunately, our Council is limited in the number of Silver Beaver Awards bestowed each year. You can download the needed paperwork from the "Resources" section of our Council website.

It is also not too early to start thinking about nominations for district awards, such as the District Award of Merit, Unit Leader of the Year, Cubmaster/Scoutmaster of the Year. There will be more information about these recognitions in future Paddle articles.

December Roundtable

By Dave Levesque

Our December Roundtable is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th at Wheatland-Chili High School, in the Cafeteria, starting at 7pm.

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.

We are going to change our meeting flow a bit this month and offer a Re-Chartering Extravaganza and holiday party. Normally, we provide program specific content right after our formal opening. This month, we are going to be featuring a free-flowing walk-through from each of our Black Creek District Committee functions. The set-up will be similar to our Webelos RUSH, where each function will have an information table where attendees can learn more about the role of each committee, sign-up for upcoming events or find out how to participate on the committee. Due to the event format, we do not plan to offer training this month.

District Committee functions include: Communications, Advancement & Recognition, Events, Order of the Arrow,

Membership, Camps, Training, and the Nominating Committee. We will also have information describing the many roles in Commissioning Service.

In place of our normal breakout sessions, we will reserve some classroom space so you can sit down with members of the Commissioner Staff to review your progress towards re-chartering or submit your final paperwork. If you are not certain how to proceed through a section of the re-chartering process, we will be there to help you sort things out.

Rob Keister, our Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner, has planned to stage a Raingutter Regatta competition for this event. We are providing the raceway and boats, unless you would like to race your own. In the spirit of the holidays, we request that you bring a holiday card to serve as your sail. We will mount these on the trimaran mast (we are using the new boats) when you take on your competitor. It should make for a colorful race.

We will also offer refreshments for the evening - in keeping with the holiday mood. We would ask you to consider bringing a cracker barrel dish to pass to add to the selection and diversity. Once you have visited all the displays, there will be time to connect with other Units and volunteers and share in the fellowship.

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Duty to Country – Part II

By Dan Scurlock

I recently had the privilege to attend “Mission 20” of the Rochester Honor Flight “Welcome Home” ceremonies. This “mission” was the last mission of the 2011 season taking deserving veterans to Washington D.C. For the “welcome home” ceremonies, present was a Police Pipe & Drum band, a contingent of Patriot Riders, several American Legion and VFW groups, military honor and color guards, a local high school band, along with a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout Pack. It was such an honor to salute these members of the “Greatest Generation” who defended our country.

What impressed me most were the interactions between the scouts and these veterans, an age variance of seventy or more years. The scouts would shake hands with the veterans, and thank them for their service, etc. Most of the time, the veteran would express their own “thank you” to the scout. A brief exchange, yet, an interaction which obviously touched both the octogenarian and the scout. This interaction was between two individuals who would not normally meet.

I believe the young men grew from this exchange and I know the veterans loved seeing our young scouts in attendance.

As I mentioned in my previous article, I met a “Welcome Home” veteran, mission 18, who escaped from Japanese

capture, partly due to the skills he learned as a Boy Scout, a decade previous. In fact, in his book, “By Air, Land and Sea”, Marty Richards acknowledged his gratitude to the Boy Scouts of America stating, he “would probably still be tied to that tree” in New Guinea if it were not for the skills he learned as a Boy Scout.

What struck me when I read his account of his military adventures was the thought that when Mr. Richards was a young scout, he wasn’t thinking that he had to learn those scouting skills because someday it might save his life. He was just having fun with his scouting buddies, just hanging out. I know the leaders of that troop were probably not thinking that they had to make certain the scouts learned scouting skills because it will save their lives in the future. Those leaders were doing what scout leaders do: present the best scouting program they could for their scouts. The result was a “legacy” of “planting seeds and not knowing what will sprout from those seeds”. At these types of ceremonies, we witness first-hand the lives created, changed, and saved because of the scouting program.

I hope more scouting units will take advantage of attending a future Rochester Honor Flight “welcome home” ceremony.

Cub Scout Roundtable

By Rob Keister

Please bring your favorite Christmas card, Birthday or any other cards that you do not mind having two holes punched in it. Are you really up for the challenge? Are you doing your exercise? Strengthening your lungs? Challenge others at the Roundtable, in the Raingutter Regatta. Come and have fun. I am looking forward to seeing you there. On December 3, 2011, we held Webelos

RUSH. Webelos 1 and 2 Scouts came to this awesome event and met the area Boy Scouts, got to know them and asked questions, and even invited them to their pack. They can help with Readyman badge, as one troop did for my pack. You also can ask if they have a trained Den Chief for your pack. There will be lots of fun, so come prepared to thoroughly enjoy yourselves.

New Eagles

Each month, we congratulate Scouts who have recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout in our district.

This month, Michael M. of Troop 334 earned Eagle. Michael’s project was a clean-up at the Rush Pine Hill Cemetery. Congratulations, Michael, on a job well done!

Larry Lowell

By Dan Scurlock

I know many of you remember Larry Lowell. In early December, four (4) years ago, Larry passed away. He had served scouting youth over seventy-five (75) years. Because of his dedication, many of us leaders strive to never be “Up a creek without a paddle!” In fact, this publication’s name is in part a tribute to Larry and all he gave to us.

I recently spoke with Laura, Larry’s wife of almost seventy (70) years, who recently celebrated her ninety-fourth birthday. She sends her regards and warm wishes to all of us. Laura knows of the high regard we hold for her and Larry.

Meet your District Volunteers: Jackie Battisti

When Adam Cregg asked me to write my “Meet your District Volunteer” I admit to being a bit hesitant. I have not been involved in boy scouts long. But, here it goes.

I was excited when my son asked to join scouts two years ago and my husband volunteered to be a Co-Tiger leader with Pack 342 in Henrietta. I figured that was that, and enjoyed my quiet time during den meetings. Then, last year, the pack couldn’t find a Wolf leader to guide my son’s den. My husband had been asked to take over as Cubmaster, which meant he couldn’t do it, so I decided it was my time to step up to help as well. As they say, the rest is history.

Last spring, Adam approached me to volunteer as the Black Creek District Family Friends of Scouting Chair, and I accepted. My job for the District is to secure Friends of Scouting presentations with our packs, troops, and crews. The Family FOS Campaign asks parents and families to consider financially supporting the Scouting program in an effort to offset the cost of providing Scouting to their child and is an important part of keeping

our scouting programs going. So don’t be surprised to hear from me when I start making phone calls in the next few weeks!

I believe in helping my children to become responsible and caring adults, and I believe scouting helps them achieve that goal. So, besides being a district volunteer, I am now the Pack Committee Chair for Pack 342, where my son is currently a Bear scout. I am learning in leaps and bounds about scouting along with the boys each year and enjoying the activities right along with them.

Outside of scouting, I am a stay at home mom of two children, age eight and four, and a professional writer with my first novel being published next summer. I have also just relocated to Rush from Henrietta, so I am busy getting the family settled into the new house, getting them ready for the holidays and just generally trying to keep up with the kids and their schedules. My hobbies include writing, reading, gardening, organizing things and being with my family.

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
December	7	7:00pm	Roundtable / Re-Chartering Extravaganza	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
	14	7:00pm	District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450
	15		Article deadline, SENECA WATERWAYS CURRENTS	
	15		Popcorn take order payments due	
	25		Article Deadline for THE PADDLE	
January	4	7:00pm	Roundtable	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
	11		District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450
	13		Article deadline, SENECA WATERWAYS CURRENTS	
	13-15		OKPIK Winter Camping Training	Massawepie Scout Camps
	19		Venturing Roundtable	LDS Church, 460 Kreg Road, Pittsford
	22		Article Deadline for THE PADDLE	
February	27-28		Klondike Derby	Mendon Ponds Park, Hopkins Lodge
	1	7:00pm	Roundtable	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
	5		Scout Sunday	
	8		District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450
	11		Scout Sabbath	
	11		Cub-a-Roo	Gates-Chili Middle School
	15		Article deadline, SENECA WATERWAYS CURRENTS	