

THE PADDLE



Monthly Newsletter of the Black Creek District, Seneca Waterways Council

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Volume 2, Number 6
February, 2012



DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE

1st Wed of every month at 7:00pm
Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
This RT: Wed, Feb 1st 7:00pm
Next RT: Wed, Mar 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 Kreg Road, Pittsford
Next RT: Thu Mar 15th 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, Feb 8th 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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Black Creek District Pinewood Derby

Black Creek District's Pinewood Derby returns this year on April 14th 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's event will be held at the new Gates Recreation Facility. All Cub Scouts are welcome to attend and join the race! There will be five



racing classes - Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Unlimited. An Overall Winner round follows. There will be awards for 1st and 2nd places each class, 1st place Overall and (special) Most Interesting Looking Car! Mark your calendars and join us at the races!

2012 Scouting for Food and Clothing Drive

Hello fellow Black Creek Troops, Packs, Crews and anyone else you might know that wants to help with Scouting for Food and Clothing. It's not too early to start organizing your plans for the two weekends in March. Locate your drop off sites and map out your streets with Al Hellaby. Get those parents ready to drive, order those patches and have fun. For all those groups in the Henrietta area, drop off will be the same location as in past years - Bushman Cabin in the town park, and remember - we can always use help boxing up food, so hang around once you drop off your food and see how it all gets packed up for the food cupboard. We will be ready by 9:00am to receive items on Drop off Saturday. Remember - the job isn't done until the paperwork is finished, so please keep track of those numbers - boys and adults, drop off and pick up. Thanks for all your help.

Peter Reeb

Plans are well underway for the 2012 Scouting for Food and Clothing Drive. The collection sites at Gates Chili

Middle School, Bushman Cabin in Henrietta, Grace Church in Scottsville, and the Old Firehouse in Churchville are set to receive the collections on March 24, 2012.

We are signing up Boy Scout Troops, Cub Scout Packs and Girl Scout Troops for bag distribution on March 17, 2012 along with collection of these routes on March 24. Please forward your group's organizer's information, or any questions you may have, to Al Hellaby at jahellaby@wegmans.com or phone 889-5725.

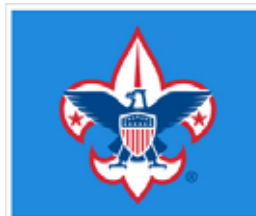
If you have not participated in the past, make this the year to get involved. If you have participated in the past,

consider expanding your area.

Thank you for your help and we look forward to making this year's collection a big success.

John Hellaby and Al Hellaby

Black Creek Scouting for Food Chairs



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Membership Report

By Jeremy Wyatt

General

On Wednesday, January 18th, we held the first Leaders' Forum at the Legacy Senior Living Center in Henrietta. The main topic was recruiting challenges in Rush-Henrietta, focused mostly on Cub Scout recruiting. A lot of great ideas came out of that meeting and the leaders gave us very good feedback. As a result, we are going to hold another on Wednesday February 15th from 6:30 to 7:30. We don't have a location yet but an announcement will go out soon. The focus for the next session will be on Boy Scout recruiting but it is open to all recruiting topics.

Cub Scouts

Most of your focus should be on your Webelos II / Arrow of Light Scouts. They are almost ready to graduate and cross over to Boy Scouts. Have they made their decisions yet? Cubmasters and Webelos Den Leaders need to make it a point of knowing whether their scouts have decided what to do. If they are undecided, it's time to arrange for more visits to help them find a troop they like. If they have decided, Cubmasters should be talking to Scoutmasters about the crossover ceremony and working out the details to make this event the highlight of your Cub Scouts' experience.

Mark Petras from Pack 217 has an excellent idea, and that is to include the presentation of the Scout Rank badge to the boys that earned their Arrow of Light as part of their crossover. Maybe it won't fit into your ceremony but the point is to make a really big deal out of it. A big difference between pack and troop life is that troops don't have monthly recognition meetings. Courts of Award are typically held 2-6 times per year depending on a troop's traditions. It could be months before your scout receives that Scout badge even though they've earned it. Make the event that much more special for them! Troop leaders will be happy to help you come up with something.

Make the troop leaders a big part of your ceremony. The more impressive it is, the more inspiring it will be for the younger cubs so they remain excited about taking the next step themselves.

You've taken care of your Arrow of Light scouts. What's next? How about those Webelos I's? It's time to get them involved with the troops. Talk to troop leaders about upcoming activities and start those visits. If the boys are up to it, encourage them to go on some overnights with the troops. Troop leaders will be happy to organize activities that will help the boys earn more activity badges.

It's also time to start thinking about Spring recruiting. Your pack just got a little smaller. Maybe it got a lot smaller. Fall is a busy time and you'll increase your chances of recruiting more boys if you start in the spring. Our council will be running events over the summer and the health of any pack is improved by having an active summer program. Every pack should strive to earn the National Summertime Pack Award. This will help you earn more points on your Journey to Excellence and counts towards things like the Cubmaster award.

The district committee is working on events that you can take advantage of this spring, so watch for those to be announced.

Boy Scouts

Hopefully, you are being contacted by scouts who want to visit your troop and hopefully join. Keep making those invitations because many of the boys are still making up their minds. Don't wait for the boys to come to your events either; you should be volunteering to help with pack events. Be present for the Pinewood derbies, Blue & Gold banquets, Winter Fun Days, etc.

Make it a habit to talk to the pack leaders and ask for a copy of their calendar. When you hold your Patrol Leader Councils (PLCs), the pack schedule should be part of the discussion. Make "How can we help the pack(s) this month?" a standing agenda item.

You can involve packs more if you include them when doing service projects. Speaking of service projects, make sure you submit information on your service projects to the local papers and if you have the opportunity, put up signs telling passersby who you are and what you're doing. Don't forget to tell the Cub Scouts that they're doing a good job and include them in events where they can be recognized.

Venture Scouts

There's a whole bunch of 8th graders, especially girls, who are looking for something you have. They're looking for adventure! The last few weeks of middle school are a prime time to recruit new venturers.

Start planning some activities now for the spring. Look for outdoor events where you can show off the things you've been doing. One possibility is to set up a display at the ADK Outdoor Expo. This year's event is being held on Saturday June 9th. More info is available at: <http://www.gvc-adk.org/expo>. You can also try setting something up at a sporting event or a town event. How about Scouting for Food and Clothing? Last year, one of my troop leaders ran into girls at Bushman's Cabin who were helping out but knew nothing about Venture Scouts. They really liked what she described. Unfortunately, she did not have any info to give out and those girls went off somewhere else. More people need to see those green shirts and get exposed to venture scouts because far too many have never even heard about the program.

Thank You Leaders!

I don't think it's said often enough so let me say thank you to all our leaders. We wouldn't be here if not for the youth and the youth would not be benefiting from Lord Baden-Powell's vision without all of you. Thank you for being leaders!

YIS,

Jeremy Wyatt

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February Roundtable

By Dave Levesque

Our February Roundtable is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st. **This month, we are re-locating our Roundtable to the T.J. Connor Elementary School, located at 13 Beckwith Avenue in Scottsville.** Starting time is 7:00 p.m.

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.



For those wishing to take or refresh their Youth Protection Training – we will be offering the revised YPT during the Roundtable.

Our Boy Scout breakout will cover several topics. We are going to review our proposed schedule of District events out through next year. The timing draws near to firm

these events in our Council and District calendars and your input will help us structure these events.

February is also prime time for adult recognition nominations. We are going to provide some tips for how to write an effective nomination for awards such as the Silver Beaver and the District Award of Merit. If you have a Scouter or two in mind you wish to nominate, this session will be invaluable to you.

Once we have completed our breakout, we will re-join the General Session where there will be time to connect with other Units and volunteers and share in the fellowship.

Did you know that nearly 70% of our Units are represented at our Roundtables each month and nearly every Unit attends sometime throughout the Scouting year? Roundtable is a terrific way to meet members of other Units you need to know for events and recruitment. We hope you will join us for our February Roundtable. We'll have you heading for home before 9:00 p.m.

Cub Scout Roundtable

By Rob Keister

Webelos RUSH is done and you have a Webelos Scout who needs to look for a troop to crossover to. This is what you can do next. First, go to www.beascout.org. Click on Boy Scout and put in your zip code. The web site will tell you all the troops in your area. Some troops have a website you can click on to get to their website. Back to beascout.org, click on show unit and it will show you the contact person. Contact that person and make an appointment to meet the troop. Most of the time you would go to their troop meeting. Ask lots of questions, like fund raising, events they do, is it boy lead, etc. Make sure you visit different troops to find the one that matches or comes close to your Webelos Scout's personality. If it does not show a contact person, after you click on "show

unit" then go to your unit commissioner. He/she should be able to get the information for you.

Back to Webelos RUSH. I am very thankful for all who volunteer their time to put to together programs like Webelos RUSH and others. When you go to BALOO, Leadership University, or any other program, do not forget to thank the teachers and the people who run the program. They are all volunteers.

At the February Roundtable we are going to explore the area of den chiefs. We are looking to have a few den chiefs there at our roundtable for anyone to ask questions of. There will be a few more topics that we will be talking about at T.J. Conner Elementary School.

Discontinued Square Knots

By Dave Levesque

The BSA has announced its intention to consolidate some of the more than 40 square knot emblems. While I have struggled to find an official announcement on this effort, I was able to gain some insights at a Scouter website called NetCommish.com via an article posted on January 16, 2012 by Mike Walton, whom some may recognize by the pen name, Settummanque.

First off, we have heard that if you have already earned or received a knot – it will continue to be valid for the life of the wearer/recipient. So these changes may only affect those who

were yet to earn a specific knot, or those who in the future need to replace a knot that was earned prior to this change but after the replacement supply has run out. This is Scouting...

Members of the BSA's Supply Group share that the plan may remove anywhere from 12 to 15 of the current square knot insignia, however, the current schedule is to remove eight initially, with another four to be removed in 2014 or 2015:

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Square Knots, from page 3

This year (2012), the five former Cub Scout "Training" Awards — the Cubmaster, Cub Scout Den Leader (Training) Award, the Webelos Den Leader (Training) Award, the Tiger Cub Den Leader (Training) Award, and the Pack Trainer (Training) Award — will all be CONVERTED to other training recognitions, to make thing consistent across all programs.

The Cubmaster Award will be discontinued and new holders will earn the Scouter's Key Award and be entitled to wear the Cub Scout program device on the award and square knot insignia. The three Den Leader awards (Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, and Webelos) will be rolled up into the Scouter's Training Award recognition, with program devices to be worn on the medal's ribbon and on the square knot insignia. This decision would actually bring the Cub Scout adult recognition insignia in synch with the other programs, using program device(s) to differentiate between programs.

Likewise, the Pack Trainer (Training) Award will be discontinued and a new Trainer's Award will be developed for all programs, with Cub Scouters wearing the small Cub Scout program device to signify that they met the requirements as a Pack Trainer.

Several of the awards formerly presented to segments of the Scouting community will be rolled up in 2014 and a new Scouting Community Awards square knot emblem will be created to replace the: George Meany Award, the Young Service Award, the Pena Award and the Asian Scouting Service Award.

The Philmont Training Center Award square knot and device will be discontinued in 2013 along with the Doctorate of Commissioner Science and the Commissioner Award of Excellence (the last award just being introduced last fall). The Commissioner Award of Merit will be rolled up into the Scouters' Award of Merit with a Commissioner device to be attached to the square knot signifying the attainment of the award.

The Speakers Bank and Alumni Connections Awards have become local Council-based awards and their square knots will continue to be available until exhausted (like, perhaps, in the next few months).

The Sea Badge cloth emblem also is going away and the BSA is not allowing the Sea Scouting community an exception — the metal Sea Badge will continue to be the highest training recognition in that program; it just will no longer have a "knot emblem" — official or otherwise.

Holders of all of the previous awards — and their square knot insignia — will continue to be able to wear them on the official uniforms; however, your best bet is to make friends with someone who has supply of knots so that you can have replacements as the uniforms go onward.

Why to do away with these? There are many possible drivers. One possible reason is to consolidate the array of knots, using program specific devices to differentiate the achievement. Scouter Key, Scouter Training, etc... plus a device, can simplify recognition of knots as well as hold down the cost of managing supply. Even with the reduction and consolidations listed above, there's still going to be 15 or so square knot items in which a BSA volunteer will be able to earn or be recognized to wear. It seems the largest impact of these awards will affect Cub Scouters who will not be able to wear two rows of training awards and instead have two square knot emblems with Cub Scouting program devices on them. Let's face it, this is not the first or last expansion or contraction of offerings of recognition knots for Scouting.

For more information, check out SCOUTING and Training Times, the BSA's online training e-zine for more details. Further details are also expected to be announced during the BSA's Annual meeting in Florida this spring.

Reference: The NetCommish | Ask Andy.com a US Scouting Service Project affiliate website..

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
February	1	7:00pm	Roundtable	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
	5		Scout Sunday	
	8		Boy Scout Day – BSA's 102nd Anniversary	
	8	7:00pm	District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450
	11		Scout Sabbath	
	11	9:00am	Cub-a-Roo	Gates-Chili Middle School
	15		Article deadline, SENECA WATERWAYS CURRENTS	
	17-19		CANCELED OKPIKATTA VIK	
	25	9:00am	Merit Badge University	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsford
	26		Article Deadline for THE PADDLE	
March	3	8:00am	Leadership University	St. John Fisher College
	7	7:00pm	Roundtable	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria
	14	7:00pm	District Committee & Commissioners Meetings	RIT NTID Building, Room 1450
	15		Article deadline, SENECA WATERWAYS CURRENTS	
	17		Scouting for Food & Clothing, Bag Distribution	
	24		Scouting for Food & Clothing, Bag Collection	
April	25		Article Deadline for THE PADDLE	
	4		Roundtable	Wheatland-Chili High School Cafeteria