



# Trails of Troop 48

*Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.*

December 2009

White Horse District – SNJ Council

## Batona Campground

Friday evening at the shed again preparing for another trip was what our group of avid scouts were doing on the Friday evening of November 20<sup>th</sup>. The trailer was almost completely packed when we arrived, and all that needed to be done was load up the logs and food. Once these two tasks were completed and ice was fetched for the cooler, we counted off the 14 or so of us and headed to the Batona Campground for our weekend full of an obstacle course, monkey bridge, and a hike.

Upon locating the campsite which only required a slight pause after passing the Carranza Memorial, we discovered that the amount of large open spaces where many in number which made picking the spot for the kitchen and sleeping area, a bit harder. Not to worry though, after scoping out the area, we picked an adequate spot for both.

Setting up took some time, but not anytime that was wasted. After setting up came bed, in order to be rested up for the activities of the following day, or the following morning depending if we went to bed before or after midnight. It is also apt to mention that one of more adventurous scouts “forgot” his sleeping bag and wasn’t allowed to sleep outside either, so they were induced to sleep in one of the leader’s cars.

Bright and early the next morning we awoke (well bright and early for those who consider 7 bright and early), and the patrols began cooking their pancake and bacon. Remarkably the pancakes came out very nicely this trip for some reason or another (better cooks possibly?), and it was a pleasure to eat them. While breakfast was being cooked, the slice-and-dice rope maze was being constructed for the obstacle course. It was setup between four trees giving it a nice rectangular shape and not too far apart from each other. The rest of the obstacle course was composed of, in the order that it appears, running across logs, jumping of a pit, walking across a seesaw, eluding the bull whip, jumping over Barry White(a red hammer thingy) three times, and then finally the slice-and-dice rope maze. The course was a big hit with the cub scouts that were joining us on this outing as well as our scouts.

After the course was done with, preparations for lunch began while others started disassembling the obstacle course for some of its parts we needed in the building of the monkey bridge. The first part of the monkey bridge was to construct two tri-pods out of logs to support the ropes. We were able to finish one and a half before are efforts were reallocated to getting ready for the hike and going on the hike. The hike, which we brought three maps for, was much simpler than we first thought it was. Not that we originally thought it was grueling three mile hike on uncharted trail, but we didn’t think it was a straight shot down a road either, which is

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### UPCOMING EVENTS...

- 12/17/09** Court of Honor
- 12/23/09** Scout Holiday Outing
- 1/10/10** Jack Frost Ski Trip
- 1/29-1/31** WH District Klondike Derby
- 2/7/10** Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale
- 2/19-2/21** Rodney Scout Reservation

For a complete listing of this year’s events, see page 4!!!

# Spaghetti Dinner

On a stormy evening a group of scouts gathered at Holy Communion Lutheran Church and prepared a delectable spaghetti dinner for the scouts families, the public, and of course the scouts themselves.

Lead by Joe Hale and Danny Ballas the two directed and whipped up a storm of food and fun. Together we all got things underway.

Within a half an hour we had the tables, coffee, juice, and salad all ready to go. We also had our admission table set up and ready to roll.

Once the Spaghetti was ready and the patrons had paid for their meals we began to serve the meal.

About half way through the meal Nolan Kier made his energetic advertisement to remind everybody to buy their raffle tickets for the movie basket. Within the next few minutes the winner of the movie basket was announced, and the winner was the LaRosa family.

Overall the dinner was a huge success. Big thanks to Joe Hale, Deb Sperling, Anne Gillespie, and Mike Gallagher for organizing the event. Also thanks to Denise Zeigler for putting the movie basket together. Finally a huge thanks to everyone who helped and to the businesses who donated food.

We look forward to the Spaghetti dinner again in 2010.

by Nick Maurer

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what it was. Never the less, we managed to make a service project out of it by filling two trash bags full a litter from alongside the road, and at the end, we visited the remains of a small old cranberry town, if you could call it that.

When we got back, night was falling and there was still the monkey bridge to complete, which we ended up completing the next day anyway, but this meant our large spaghetti dinner for 40 or so people needed to get underway. While the pasta was underway, some of the older scouts went off to complete the monkey bridge. The second tri-pod was completed by one of the scouts that stayed behind during the hike, so, next, we needed to setup the tri-pod against tree and start pulling the ropes across. This proved to be harder than we thought it would be at first glance, and after one tri-pod fell over we took the good measure of lashing them to the trees we placed them next to. A bulk of the bridge was completed before we decided to go about the task of putting away the kitchen. Also, in between the monkey bridge and cleaning up was delicious spaghetti meal with the always favored garlic bread. That night, most people went to bed between 10 and 11 except for the fearless leaders of the troop who were having a very important in-depth meeting in a nice warm place. After which they sat and relaxed by a fire of their own for another 3 hours.

The next morning, wasn't like most Sunday mornings on campouts since the monkey bridge still needed to be completed and used to the fullest extent of its safety. Once the final preparations were made to it, the time to test it was upon us. Now, you might imagine a monkey bridge to be nice and tout as well as sturdy, well this was not your ordinary monkey bridge, but it only added to the thrill of it. The real challenge of the bridge was essentially staying on, so if you could get across without falling, you really were proud. After all those who wanted to do it went, it was time to dismantle it, which went quick then setting it up of course, which isn't a bad thing. Now, it became more like a normal Sunday morning, just a little later.

When all was said and done with at the campground, we burned rubber and went to visit the Carranza Memorial down, the road about a half a mile maybe. We followed up the memorial with a trip to Atsion which is yet another town that the Richards family ran at some point or another. When the visit there ended, it was time to head back. So through and through, I thought this was a really great trip, and find that even though we visit the Pine Barrens countless times, it never disappoints.

by Dan Smith

**Don't forget to check out the Troop website for pictures, forms, the troop schedule, and much more!**  
**[www.troop48berlin.org](http://www.troop48berlin.org)**

## Troop 48 Court of Honor

Hope Church, Cooper Rd and Centennial Blvd, Voorhees, NJ  
Thursday, December 17

Set up at 6:30 PM, ceremony begins at 7 PM

The Annual Troop 48 Court of Honor, recognizing the Troop's and individual Scout's achievements during our 44<sup>th</sup> year of Scouting will be held at Hope Church in Voorhees on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Scouts are expected to wear full uniforms with either official Scout pants or kackis/dress pants (please no jeans), and family, friends, and alumni are all welcome and encouraged to attend.

This year's Court of Honor will include the lighting of the Spirit Candle, a slide show of the previous year's activities (put together and narrated by the Scouts), recognition of each Scout for his achievements this past year, and the presentation of the Silver Bullet Award and the Memorial Award. There will be refreshments afterwards.

## **Upcoming trip!**

Backpacking on the Batona Trail  
Sunday, December 27 to Tuesday December 29

*Note: This trip is only for Scouts aged 13 and older.*

Troop 48 will be heading out for some winter backpacking this December on the Batona Trail! This trip is not for the faint of heart, as the crew will be attempting to backpack as much of the 50 mile trail as possible. We will be preparing ahead of time (what we are packing, the route we are taking, where we are camping) as a group, so if you are interested please see Dan or Steve ASAP. If you are worried about your gear, we can borrow backpacking tents, packs, and equipment from other members of the troop.

**We will be meeting at the shed early on Sunday morning, time TBA. The cost of this trip is also TBD (depending largely on cost of food), but should not be more than the regular cost of \$25.**

## ***EASY TROOP 48 FUNDRAISER!***

Wish you could do more to support Troop 48 but never seem to find the time? Well now you can *and* take care of your errands at the same time when you use **Shop Rite** gift certificates purchased through Troop 48! These gift certificates come in handy denominations of \$25 and \$50 and are sold by Deb Sperleng during each troop meeting. With every card you purchase the troop makes money!

## Schedule for 2009/2010

- December 17 - Court of Honor, Hope Church, Voorhees, NJ
- December 27-29 – Backpacking Trip – Batona Trail
- January 10 - Ski Day at Jack Frost Mountain, The Poconos
- January 29-31 - Klondike Derby
- February 7 - Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale
- February 19-21- Rodney Scout Reservation, Northeast, MD
- TBA - Shotgun & Rifle Merit Badge Day
- March 26-28 – Gettysburg, PA
- April 16-18 – Bike Trip on the Valley Forge Rail Trail, Philadelphia to Valley Forge, PA
- May 21-23 – kayaking and swimming at Assateague Island National Seashore, MD
- June - Swim Day
- June/July – Advancement Camp
- July 26 – August 4 – BSA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Jamboree
- August 7-13 – Summer Trip to Acadia National Park in Maine

## SCOUT DUES

**If anyone has not already paid their scout dues yet for the 2009-2010 Scout year, please see Bob Faust at a meeting or at the Court of Honor.**

### **PARENTS: INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN SCOUTS?**

*Troop 48 is always looking for new parents to help handle the variety of adult roles that make Boy Scouting a positive experience for our children. Adult leadership in Troop 48 is on a volunteer basis, and offers ways to get involved even if you can only offer a small commitment.*

*For more information contact:  
-Michael Gallagher (Committee Chair)  
mgalla48@gmail.com*

**Don't forget to check out the Troop website for pictures, forms, the troop schedule, and much more!  
[www.troop48berlin.org](http://www.troop48berlin.org)**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
SEE EVERYONE IN 2010 !!**

# PERMISSION SLIP – December Backpacking



When?: Sunday, December 27 - Tuesday, December 29. Time of arrival at “the shed”, early Sunday morning (Time TBA). Please eat breakfast before you come!

Where?: The Batona Trail – The Pine Barrens

Cost?: To be determined, depending upon cost of food.

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SCOUT: \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to attend the troop activity/trip and has permission to engage in all activities, except as noted below. I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult leader in charge to treat, hospitalize, and secure proper anesthesia and/or order injection or surgery for my son/ward.

RESTRICTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

If your son is required to take medication or has any other special needs, please list the details below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Scout account:

Please deduct \$\_\_\_\_\_ from my Scout account to pay for the December Backpacking Trip, December 27-29, 2009

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature of Scout)