



Trails of Troop 48

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

September 2009

White Horse District – SNJ Council

Summer Trip 2009 DAR State Park Vermont by Dan S.

The sun had just peaked over the horizon as we arrived at the shed to finish packing up the trailer for our week long trip to DAR State Park in Vermont. Most of the packing had been done the Wednesday night before hand, but there were still a few things, like food, that needed to be packed up as well as personal gear. After those things had been tended to, it was time to load up nine Scouts and four leaders into the cars and head out. The 7 hour long car ride, which consisted of driving through New Jersey, to New York and then over a one-lane bridge over the beautiful Lake Champlain into Vermont, wasn't as bad as one might expect, and we even managed to avoid getting lost for the most part.



Troop 48 visits Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory in Vermont

Upon arriving at the campsite, our first priority was to put up the canopy which would serve as our kitchen area. This proved to be much more difficult than we had expected since someone had missed packing a crucial pole. In order to correct this problem, two "extra" leg poles were duct taped together as a replacement. The only catch to that solution, which we didn't find out till later, was that those poles weren't really extras. The finished product was a canopy missing two legs, roped together by Steven, and duct taped in multiple places, nevertheless, that canopy lasted the entire week without any problems.

The next morning we awoke bright and early to prepare for our day's activity, which was a ten mile hike on the Jerusalem Trail up Mt. Ellen, the third largest mountain in Vermont. After finishing up breakfast and making sure everyone had

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UPCOMING EVENTS...

- 9/12-13** Batona Trail – New Lisbon, NJ
- 9/23** Troop Elections
- 10/2-4** MS 150 Rest Stop – Pleasant Mills, NJ
- 10/10** Troop Yard Sale – Berlin, NJ
- 10/23-25** Canoe Trip –Wading River
- 11/20-22** Goshen Pond – Shamong, NJ

For a complete listing of this year's events, see page 5!!!

Eagle Court of Honor

By Luke S.

In June I had the pleasure of participating in my first Eagle Court of Honor. An Eagle Court of Honor is a special occasion for the Troop, the new Eagle Scouts, and Scout parents. It is also a time to come together with former Eagle Scouts and learn about the new things that they are experiencing since they left Scouting.

On Sunday, June 14th at 3:30 in the Old Orchards United Methodist Church fellowship hall we recognized our latest Eagle Scouts; Timothy Farrell, Michael Hall, Brandon Lee and Samuel Strader. All Scouts were dressed

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the proper supplies for the hike, we loaded up the cars and headed for the trail. The bulk of the hike was at a fairly steep incline, making it all the more challenging. When we neared the top of the mountain, it was decided that we would have lunch by a small, but beautiful overlook. This is also the part of the trip where Mike dropped his camera on the rocks and ended its life for the week, he was so happy too. Proceeding lunch, we walked for a little ways along the peak of the mountain until we decided to take a group picture and head back down. The descent was a little trickier on account of the rocks being slippery and wet from the clouds that had rolled over the mountain, but we managed to make it down without any injuries. Upon reaching the cars, we discovered it was raining, and that we had been standing in the clouds, when we were at the top of the mountain. On the way back to the campground, we stopped at the local general store in the town of Addison, where we were treated to some ice cream.

When we arrived back at camp, we were disappointed to hear that Big Friendly Ben (BFB), our Cub Scout companion for the week and younger brother of Luke, was unsuccessful in riding his piranha in Lake Champlain while we were hiking. After dinner, we went down to the lake ourselves and took our turns at seeing how long we could stay on the piranha. I was the only one that managed to stay on it for at least ten seconds, if I remember correctly.

Fort Ticonderoga, bordered by Lake Champlain and Lake George, is French and Indian and Revolutionary War era fort as well as our destination for Monday. The fort housed a large variety of cannons and musketry including some in firing condition. Playing all throughout the fort was a Fife and Drum Corp which doubled as the weapon demonstrators. As we walked around the fort, we challenged ourselves to speak in an accent resembling the nation's flag we were nearest to, my favorite being the Canadian accent, since Batman wasn't allowed in. After BFB killed us all with his new rifle, we left good old Fort Ticonderoga, and headed to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

The Maritime Museum was a mostly outside museum about ship wrecks and wars on the lake. It also showcased a replica ship of the Philadelphia II, which was floating at the dock. Back at camp, we had a war of our own using the crab apples that covered the ground at the site.

The canoe/kayaking trip, which was the highlight of the trip for me, was nine miles down the Winooski River. After being transported upriver by a vegetable oil burning bus where the canoe unloading spot was, we were greeted by rain. The rain however, did not last long and, luckily, the rest of the trip was beautiful. We had a slow start to the expedition, being passed by the rest of the canoe/kayakers, but once we got going it wasn't bad. Only two boats managed to get flipped during the duration of the trip, one of which was me, and let me tell you, paddling a kayak full of water is not easy. I won't be doing it again anytime soon if I can help it. The other boat flipped was manned by Jif and Armon. They had a good reason for flipping, while I flipped trying to get back in after swimming around. The spot we picked for lunch was a mud barge about one fourth down river, in some spots you could sink down to your shins in mud which was lots of fun. We did manage to find some ground hard enough to stand comfortably on for eating. On the drive home we spotted two rainbows, adding a beautiful ending to an already beautiful day.



For me the highlight of the trip was canoeing, but for others the highlight was the tour of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory on Wednesday. The tour, which was not long, consisted of a video of how Ben and Jerry's got started, followed by a viewing area where you could see the ice cream being made, and lastly the free samples that you could have more than one of. When we finished the tour we visited the flavor graveyard, where, to our dismay, we discovered that blueberry ice cream had been retired. The next activity for the day was spending a couple of hours in Burlington, where we split up into patrols and walked around for an hour or so, before meeting back up to go into the ECHO center down on Lake Champlain. The ECHO center was an interactive history of Lake

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The Swamp Rat Award

by Mike McCormick

The Swamp Rat Award is given after each trip to the Scout who displays "the true spirit of Troop 48" on that trip. Congratulations go to Alex for winning the award for our weeklong summer trip to Vermont. Despite a tough race, Alex (who was on his first trip with the troop) won this prestigious award by climbing just about every tree, rock face, and log-sticking-out-into-the water in the state of Vermont, the first of which (a tree) was scaled within two minutes of pulling up to the campsite. Alex, along with the past winners, will be receiving his award at a weekly meeting.

Recent Swamp Rat Award winners:

Sean G. – February 2009 - Klondike Derby
Sean G. – March 2009 – Belleplaine State Forest
Dan S. – April 2009 – Sandy Hook
Dan S. - May 2009 – Hickory Run State Forest
Alex N. – August 2009 – Vermont

Don't forget to check out the Troop website for pictures, forms, the troop schedule, and much more!
www.troop48berlin.org

Champlain and its environment as well as featuring other exhibits such as Wind Power and Play, which had a hurricane simulator, and paper airplane launcher. The last stop of the day was at Otter Creek Falls, where we climbed a tree, watched the waterfall, and tried and failed to sink a small dock.

Our final day in Vermont, before we left, was the trip to Ausable Chasm. A ferry was our transportation of choice for the day to get us over into New York. The chasm, despite being a failed canyon, was still a sight to see. In order to reach the tubing launching point, we had to walk a mile or so along the edge of the canyon. The rapids in the canyon were spectacular, as well as being dangerous, yet that didn't stop me from almost swimming through some of the smaller ones. When the fairly short tubing ride was over, we stay in the wading pool at the bottom and swam around, and then we took the tram back to our cars. Next up was, to hike the same path we hiked earlier, but enjoy it more this time instead of rushing through it. Being the easiest hike ever, we didn't mind doing it again, to enjoy the view. As we took the tram back again, we realized this was the last activity of the week, and tomorrow we were going home.

Well, tomorrow had come, and we had packed everything up Thursday night, all that was left to do was patrol the area, and leave. The only thing we had failed to leave out was the bin that had the lunch supplies, so I had to dig through all the bins until I found it. Later, after I had put everything back, I noticed that we had forgotten knives, and I wasn't about to go tear apart the trailer again, so instead, we just borrowed some from the local salad bar at the rest stop. Unpacking was the easiest thing we had done all week I think, because all we needed to do was throw everything in the shed where it still sits. I thought the trip was an outstanding success and an adventurous, character-building event, leaving me in suspense for next summer's trip to Acadia National Park in Maine.



Alex enjoys the mud on the Winooski

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in their Class A uniforms. We recited the Scout Oath and Law. Each Scout helped to display the Scout Law by hanging up a separate plaque for each character trait. Plaques were shown for trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. The ceremony was light by candlelight. After the ceremony cake and refreshments were enjoyed by Scouts, guests, and family members.

Troop 48 has over one hundred Eagle Scouts. The first Eagle Scouts were recognized in 1967. Troop 48 has a rich heritage of which its scouts can be proud. Our Eagle Scouts names are engraved in an impressive bronze trophy which we enjoy displaying at Troop functions and celebrations. Participating in the Court of Honor encouraged me to continue in Scouting and strive towards the goal of Eagle Scout.

The Troop would like to thank everyone for their help in planning the Court of Honor. We would also like to thank Old Orchards United Methodist Church for graciously hosting our celebration. Congratulations go out to Timothy, Michael, Brandon, and Samuel for their accomplishments.

From left to right: Brandon, Michael, Tim, and Sam, Troop 48's newest Eagle Scouts. Congratulations!

Two Upcoming Trips!!!

The Batona Trail Saturday September 12th - Sunday September 13th

Troop 48 marches toward high adventure with a hiking/backpacking expedition on the Batona Trail! The Batona Trail is a shady, flat, fifty mile long trail (of which we are hiking 10 miles or so) through the pine barrens of New Jersey. Older Scouts are encouraged to try backpacking on this trip, younger Scouts are welcome to hike it. The troop will take the Batona Trail to our stopping place, the New Jersey Forestry Service Headquarters in New Lisbon, NJ (workplace of Mr. Michael Gallagher). The non-backpacking hikers will have their camping equipment waiting for them.

Please meet at the church at 7 AM on SATURDAY, the cost of this trip is \$10, the permission slip is attached to this newsletter!



MS 150 Bike Ride Rest Stop Friday October 2nd - Sunday, October 4th

Troop 48 will be returning to the MS 150 City-to-Shore Bike Ride on October 2 through 4th. This annual 150 mile bike ride raises money for research to cure Multiple Sclerosis (or MS), a disease that, over time, causes a person to lose control of different muscles in their body. As we have for many years, the troop will be helping to run one of the rest stops for the bikers on Saturday during the day, handing out water. That evening, the troop will head down to Ocean City, where the volunteers and bikers are fed a spaghetti dinner as a thank you for their help before roaming the boardwalk. Friday and Saturday nights will be spent at Buttonwood Campground in Penn State Forest. Sunday we'll explore the nearby ghost town of Batsto, NJ before heading back to Berlin.

In addition to all the hard work that the Scouts do for this charity, the Troop is proud to have two of our own, Ed Madden and Cindy Johnson, help to organize the bike ride, as well as ride in it each year. Please mark your calendars and come out and make a difference!

Please meet at the shed at 6 pm on FRIDAY! The cost is \$20, the permission slip is attached to this newsletter!

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 Sperling near the end of each meeting. With every card you purchase the troop makes money!

Scout Elections will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd!

The boys will be electing their leaders for the 2009-2010 Scouting year including the following positions: Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Patrol Leaders - 2 (PL), and Assistant Patrol Leaders - 2 (APL). Each Scout will get one vote for each position.

Requirements to run are as follows:

- ✓ SPL – A Scout must be Star or above, nominated by another Scout, and seconded
- ✓ ASPL, PL – A Scout must be First Class or above, nominated by another Scout, and seconded
- ✓ APL – A Scout must be 2nd Class or above, nominated by another Scout, and seconded

Troop 48 Tree Cutting Day

By Mike McCormick

On Sunday, August 30th, the Troop headed out into Lebanon State Forest to cut new poles for our troop lashing projects. Troop Committee Chairperson and esteemed Forestry Technician Michael Gallagher gained permission from the superintendent of the state park and organized the outing. In two hours, the troop, men and boys alike, felled and trimmed over twenty-five trees, enough poles to fill our lashing needs for the next several years.

Many thanks go out to Steven H, Dan S, Alex N, Luke S, Mr. Bush, Mr. Norton, Mr. Hale, and Mike Gallagher for all their hard work!



Luke S. and Steven H. work together to fell a tree.

Troop Schedule 2009-2010

- September 12-13 – Hiking/Backpacking Trip, Batona Trail, New Lisbon, NJ
- October 2- 4 - MS 150 City-to-Shore Bike Ride Rest Stop – Pleasant Mills, NJ
- October 10 – Annual Troop 48 Yard Sale, Holy Communion Church, Berlin, NJ
- October 23-25- Canoe Trip, the Wading River, Wharton State Forest, NJ
- November 20-22 - Goshen Pond, Shamong, NJ
- December - Court of Honor
- January - Ski Day at Jack Frost Mountain, The Poconos
- January - Klondike Derby
- Sunday, February 7 - Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale
- February 19-21- Rodney Scout Reservation, Northeast, MD
- 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
- August – Summer Trip to Acadia National Park in Maine

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:

-Mike McCormick (Assistant Scoutmaster)
michaelmccormick26@gmail.com or (856)287-2155

-Michael Gallagher (Committee Chair)
mgalla@eden.rutgers.edu



Troop 48 at Boulder Field in Hickory Run State Forest – May 2009

PERMISSION SLIP – Batona Trail

When?: Saturday, September 12- Sunday, September 13. Please arrive at the church on Saturday at 7 AM. We will pack and depart around 7:30 AM

Where?: The Batona Trail, Brendon Byrne State Forest, NJ. Camping at Forest Service Station at New Lison, NJ

Cost?: \$10 per scout.

On this trip, Troop 48 will be backpacking and hiking a portion of the Batona Trail.

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:

PERMISSION SLIP – MS 150

When?: Friday, October 2- Sunday, October 4. Please arrive at the church on Friday at 6 PM. We will pack and depart around 6:30 PM

Where?: MS 150 Rest Stop at Pleasant Mills, NJ. Camping at Buttonwood Campsite, Wharton State Forest, NJ.

Cost?: \$20 per scout.

On this trip, Troop 48 will be helping to run a rest stop for the bikers on the MS 150 City-to-Shore Charity Bike Ride. We will spend Saturday evening on the boardwalk at Ocean City and stop at Batsto, NJ on Sunday morning.

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:
