



Trails of Troop 48

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

March 2009

White Horse District – SNJ Council

Camping at Goshen Pond: November Trip with the Cub Scouts by Joe Scouter

In November, the Troop made its annual pilgrimage to the mighty Goshen Pond of Wharton State Forest. On this trip we had the occasion to host a number of prospective cub scouts and parents. The weather forecasters called for rain off-and-on all weekend, so Nolan, Jeff, Kameron, and Sean set to the task of setting up the dining fly and kitchen right away. On Saturday morning the rest of the troop arrived, along with a bunch of energetic cub scouts and their parents. A hearty breakfast of sausage and pancakes was had by all.

As older scouts set up an elaborate obstacle course, Evan “Rock” occupied the prospective scouts by answering questions about boy scouts and teaching them to gather firewood. The obstacle course, which included challenges like “the balance beam of death,” the “slicer,” and the “pit of doom,” was so well received that we almost had to physically remove some people from it so that they would have lunch.

During lunch, a storm rolled in and dumped a deluge or rain on our camp, although everyone stayed thankfully dry under the dining fly. When the rain let up, the scouts led an impromptu hike to view the destruction caused by a recent wildfire just south of Atsion Lake.

Upon returning to camp the scouts and the prospective scouts cooked a pasta dinner that couldn’t be beat. Afterwards

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Eric L. tied up to a tree at Goshen Pond

Annual December Court of Honor Coverage

At the Hope United Methodist Church

By Dan S

The year was over, and it was time to recap all of our accomplishments and trips over the year. We met around 6 o’clock to set-up for the event, which involved unloading the cars, assembling the candle stands, and setting up chairs. The Court of Honor also has an optional Pollyanna, which almost always lands you with a flashlight if you participate. The ceremony started out with the scouts taking wooden planks with one word from the scout law on each one to the front of the room. When they get to the front with the plank, they hang it under the appropriate column, light a candle, turn around, and repeat the word to the audience.

After that had cycled through, Mike McCormick, who

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UPCOMING EVENTS...

- 3/20-22** Belleplain State Forest - Woodbine, NJ
- 4/17-19** Bike trip - Sandy Hook, NJ
- 5/1-3** NYC/5 Boro Bike Ride
- 5/22 - 24** Whitewater Rafting - Lehigh Gorge, PA
- 6/20** Troop 48 Swim Day at Lake Oswego
- 6/28-7/4** Camp Ockinickon
- 8/8-14** Vermont Summer Trip – DAR State Park

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the scouts built two big campfires and successfully nursed them through another major downpour until the rain finally let up for good.

On Sunday morning, after everyone had pitched in to break down camp and our guests had left, we took a ride over to the ghost town of Atsion to check out the newly renovated mansion, the carriage house ruins, and the abandoned one room schoolhouse. As the trip neared its end, we strolled across the Atsion train trestle; once an integral part of the Jersey Central Railroad that carried products of Pine Barrens boomtowns a century earlier. ●

Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale

By Dan S.

On Super Bowl Sunday, we met, with a smile on our face, at the Voorhees Middle School, so we could begin our hoagie making extravaganza. Over the past weeks, we had been going around asking friends and family to buy hoagies for Super Bowl Sunday, which were going to be made fresh that day. In the school cafeteria, the setup was very simple. It consisted of two rows of tables, one setup to make ham and cheese and American hoagies and the other for Italian hoagies.

When the process finally started, it was like a steam locomotive, slow to start but finally sped up. After we got into a rhythm, the hoagies were just flying down the table at blazing speeds. First the rolls were cut in half, and then the cheese, ham, and whatever else the sandwich required were applied. Now that we had finished the sandwiches, it was time to move on to sorting them in alphabetical order by the last name of the scout. At the same time, another group of scouts began to clean up the tables, which we had worked on. We were told later by a school janitor that the room was cleaner than it was when we got there. When all was said and done, we had made 110 hoagies. The troop made \$240 on this hoagie sale, and we hope to do even better next year. ●



Jeff B. and Danny S. happily making hoagies at the Super Bowl Hoagie Sale

Rifle & Shotgun Merit Badge Day

By Dan S.

The goal of the gun club trip was to complete the shotgun and rifle merit badge and have some fun shooting some guns at the same time, but it ended up to be much, much more. We all gathered at the church around 11 o'clock on the rainy morning of Sunday, February 22, but not even the rain was going to stop us from reaching our destination. After some prolonged waiting, and a good game of football at the shed, all the preparation was done and it was time to set off. The drive only took about 25 minutes, and upon arriving we set off to the rifle range. Unknown to all of us, there was a Civil War re-enactor present who was there to show us some things that he had from the

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Nick M. aiming a .22 rifle on Rifle and Shotgun Merit Badge Day.

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civil war era.

When it was finally time to begin, only one person could shoot at a time, so we took turns and, while we waited, watched the civil war re-enactor. The re-enactor brought with him two gun, which were an Enfield rifle and a revolver, both of which he fired. After everyone had finished shooting the rifle and lunch was sorted out, we began shooting skeet with the shotgun. On average each scout shot at least one clay pigeon and everyone who wanted to got a turn. Many thanks to Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Frame for making such a great trip. ●

The Legend of "Swamp Rat"

by Mike McCormick

There is a troop story that comes down from the years before I was a Scout. The troop was camping out at Goshen Pond one Fall, and was experiencing the usual Goshen Pond weather: cold and wet. One of the Scouts decided that, given the circumstances, there was nothing to do but go swimming... in his clothes... in the swamp. So into the swamp he went. When he came out of the water, he had earned himself a nickname: The Swamp Rat. He also earned himself a place in Troop 48 lore.

It is with this spirit of adventure in mind that I introduce The Swamp Rat Award. This award will be given after each camping trip to the Scout who best shows the spirit of Troop 48, that sense of adventure, touch of craziness, and whatever else that makes and has always made Troop 48 special.

The first Swamp Rat Award, given for this year's Klondike Derby, went to Sean G for being the only Scout to brave snow and frigid 14 degree temperatures to camp out overnight before the Klondike. ●

Klondike Derby

By Mike McCormick

This year Troop 48's Klondike Derby was held on February 7 at Hawkins Bridge Campsite in Wharton State Forest. Mr. Madden, Mike Gallagher, myself, and Sean G. were the only ones brave enough, or crazy enough, to go out the night before, which was largely spent scouting out the area and keeping warm around the fire. Frigid overnight temperatures of 14 degrees didn't keep anyone from getting up Saturday morning for the big event. Unfortunately, the flu did, as several Scouts was forced to stay home in bed rather than test their scouting skills.

Undeterred, alumni members (who were supposed to run the events) instead filled out the patrols while Mr. Madden and Mr. Farrell ran the show. This years events included fire building, first aid, orienteering, blind tent set-up, and a puzzle where patrols had to figure out how to get their sled and members across a "raging river" spanned by a piece of 1" thick rope. The final event, as in years past, was the sled race.

While the Beaver Patrol of Aaron, Sean, and Matt (with help from myself) managed to win the sled race, the day went by a slender margin to the Panther Patrol led by Danny B and containing Matt and alumni Mike G. and Mark. Congratulations go out to every Scout who attended, as they showed more than their fair share of mettle, teamwork, and skill in navigating this year's contest. ●

is one of the assistant Scoutmasters, called up each scout and reviewed what they had done over the year and what trips they've been on. When that was all said and done, the slideshow started, which consisted of pictures from trips that we had taken over the year. The pictures where narrated by Nolan, Danny B., Jeff B., or myself. The ceremony ended, as any good ceremony should end, with food, provided by the scout's mothers. The night couldn't have gone better, except when the candle stand fell, but that is only a minor detail. ●



Aaron and Jif mushing at the Klondike

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 ShopRite gift certificates purchased through Troop 48!

These gift certificates come in handy denominations of \$25 and \$50 and are sold by April Kier near the end of each meeting. With every card you purchase the troop makes money!

Question or interested in helping out? Please contact April Kier at 856-768-1136.

Upcoming March Trip: Belleplain State Forest, NJ

By Joe Scouter

On Friday March 20th, Troop 48 will venture its way south on the wild and scenic highways of Cumberland County to Belleplain State Forest. Yes, like most forests Belleplain has enough trees to shake a stick at, which is why the troop will be going on a night hike during its stay – in hopes of seeing nocturnal critters that live in trees. According to a recent interview with a U.S. Forest Service forester, we may see white tailed deer, opossum, raccoon, or flying squirrel. He also made sure to note that March 20 is far enough away from the full moon that we should have good luck pointing out stars and constellations with our new “astronomical laser pointer”.

Belleplain is also conveniently located in proximity to the Cape May Light House, the Delaware Bay,

and the Atlantic Ocean; which host a variety of interesting places for exploration and adventure.

Our staff was also fortunate enough to interview troop committee chairman, Mike Gallagher, about going to Belleplain as a scout over a decade ago: “I’m pretty sure I rode down to the trip in Jim Frame’s van and we made a stop at McDonalds. That was one of the perks to riding with Mr. Frame. The memory starts to fade at the ripe old age of 23, but I recall Kurt Schmidt catching a field mouse in one of the big Rubbermaid tubs that we stored the stoves in. Field mice are pretty tricky, so this was an impressive feat. And we had a manhunt game that night...I’m pretty sure it was like Tom Ferrari and Dan MacDonnell vs. the entire rest of the troop. It was kind of like being chased by “The Predator” in that Arnold Schwarzenegger flick, except there were two of them. All in all it was a great trip though.”

Perhaps there will be another riveting game of manhunt on the upcoming Belleplain trip! ●

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:

-Chris Farrell (Scoutmaster)

Cfarrell402@aol.com

-Mike McCormick (Assistant Scoutmaster)

Michaelmccormick26@gmail.com

-Michael Gallagher (Committee Chair)

mgalla@eden.rutgers.edu

TROOP 48 PARENTS MEETING Wed. 3/18/08

The parents meeting will be held in the church multipurpose room during the regular scout meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend, as we will be discussing important information pertaining to the upcoming Vermont summer trip and Camp Ockinickon.

PERMISSION SLIP – Belleplain State Forest

When?: Friday, March 20 - Sunday, March 22.

Please arrive at the church on Friday at 6 pm. We will pack and depart around 6:30 pm.

Where?: Belleplain State Forest – Woodbine, NJ

Cost?: \$25 per scout.

Belleplain State Forest is a pine, oak, and cedar forest located just south of the Pine Barrens in Cumberland County New Jersey. At Belleplain, the planned trip activities include a night hike, tin foil meals, and another excursion to be determined. All scouts must have a signed permission slip to attend!

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: _____

I will be available to provide transportation for _____ scouts. (number)

___ on the trip out
___ on the trip back.

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