



# Scouting Year Early 2009

Ben Hallenbeck, Troop Historian

Historian Report: February 24, 2009

### **Backpacking Basics**

Last week's meeting was a bit shorter than usual, and Greg Brinkman filled in for Senior Patrol Leader as Will Carlson was absent for the beginning of the meeting. The Skill Session was led by Zack and was about how to choose and pack the right bag for backpacking, as that's the main theme of the next campout. He covered a lot of the necessary basics that I'm guessing a lot of people, myself included, needed a refresher course on, as it's been a while since the Troop has been backpacking. The game afterwards was "Crab Soccer", where the scouts form two teams and try to play soccer when everybody was in the 'crab' position. The resulting but typical chaos that followed had both sides bend the rules a little, and some people went a bit further.

Sleeping Bag Update: Mr. Adkerson has found his sleeping bag in his garage, so call off the dogs.

Ben Hallenbeck, Troop Historian

Historian Report: March 3, 2009

### **Backpacking Cuisine**

Mr S. was among those attending the latest meeting, which was a very exciting meeting indeed. The skill session was simply titled "Cooking on the Trail" and led by Chef Max Goldberg and Assistant cook Dillion Whitehead. The skill session covered how to make basic meals on the trail, how to be conservative with garbage on the trip, and a mini-class in backpacking Nutrition 101 to show what kind of stuff one must eat on the trail. What really made the little cooking class interesting was what went on during it: flying compressed bread slices, a discussion about getting butter from milking anything vs. just bringing squeeze butter, a rush for Spam sandwiches, and plenty of delicious taste tests.

Then after cleaning up the skill session, the scouts only got more energetic when the game was revealed to be the ever popular Dodgeball. The adults set up a net where the stage wall used to be to block balls from flying into the stage backdrop, and Senior Patrol Leader Will Carlson said that this was going to be a game that used the "Honor" system, or in other words this was going to be a "fair" match. The first round was over relatively quickly, with Brett Carwile as the last man on his team vs. the majority of the other team. The second round was similar, except it was Elliot Horstman as the last man standing against his enemies. The Last round was longer than the first two and much more furious, but in the end it was Max Goldberg vs. the world."

Historian Report: March 10, 2009

### **New Kids on the Block**

At the last meeting, the existing Hurricane, Viking, Kodiak, and Falcon patrols were joined by a fifth patrol, the Flaming Arrow Patrol, who had recently come back from their very first campout.

Then after the Order of the Arrow elections were held, the patrols split up to plan the meals for the upcoming campouts, while the Kodiaks and Falcons are going hiking at Bearwallow, the Hurricane and Viking Patrols will be going to John Bryan State Park to go rock climbing.

Guest speaker and former Troop 281 member Barry Atkins visited to explain what the rock climbing was like and brought some "nice shiny objects," as he put it, in the form of climbing equipment used to climb the rocks. Mr. Atkins is an advisor for a Venture Scout patrol as well, so I bet there will be some Venture Scouts on this campout as well who are climbing the rocky cliffs.

After planning what meals will be made on the trip, the scouts broke up into two parties yet again, this time divided by age. The older scouts went outside to play Ultimate Frisbee while the younger scouts stayed inside to play Ultimate Football. In both games, all the scouts were like one giant mob of limbs and hair chasing a little plastic toy, the only real difference being that the mob formed by the older scouts was taller than the mob formed by the younger scouts.

Lastly, as the meeting began to come to a close, the Flaming Arrow scouts received their Scout Badges from Mr. Carlson and Mrs. Carwile, and the new scout parents joined in when the order to "circle up" was given. The resulting shape was more like a giant elongated oval, but that's closer to a circle than what the scouts normally form in a typical meeting closing.

Historian Report: March 17, 2009

### **Gone Hiking (or Climbing)**

At the latest troop meeting, the skill session was focused on the basics of hiking while camping. Led by Greg Brinkman, the two youngest patrols took a short trip around the church, making short breaks to focus on one of the ten scout essentials for hiking. I'm not quite sure what the other scout patrols did since yours truly tagged along with the new scouts. But from what I could gather when the troop fell back in after the skill session, it seems the other group of scouts did a similar exercise. The Kodiak and Falcon patrols are going backpacking at Bear Wallow, so they will most likely have benefited from the recent refresher course. The Hurricanes and Vikings are going to John Bryant State Park; where instead of hiking, those scouts will be climbing rocks, but it's always good to make sure you have the ten scout essentials on any campout.

The game after the skill session, called "British Bulldog", was new for a lot of scouts, myself included. In the game everybody runs from the person who's the "British Bulldog" who tries to tag people by giving them bear hugs and lifting them off the ground shouting "British Bulldog!" The captured person then becomes a "British Bulldog" themselves, and the process repeats until one person is left without getting turned into a dog. That person then sits out for the rest of the match, and the game restarts. In short: It's territorial tag with wrestling moves thrown in the mix. The younger scouts were separated from the older scouts again for the game, probably to avoid any older scouts making any younger scout into a flattened pancake by accident.

Mr. S was also there, giving support for the Church's "Project 5000" service and asking the scouts to lend a hand. "Project 5000" is a food collection drive, taking its name from the story of Jesus Christ feeding 5000 people with just a few loaves of bread, where the church collects boxes full of food, one box being able to feed a needy family for a weekend. The need is greater than ever and "Project 5000" is a great way to directly help out the community without spending too much money, as it only takes \$20-\$25 worth of food to fill one box, so help fill a box and feed a family in need.

Towards the end of the meeting, Scoutmaster Dr. Reynolds had arrived, and wants everybody to know he's still alive. The new troop chairman, Mr. Van Kuren, was sworn in by Dr. Reynolds, and then after a few more announcements concerning Pancakes in the Woods and the Flower Sale, the scouts formed the crossed-hands amoeba and closed the meeting.

Historian Report: March 20–22, 2009

**Hiking at Bear Wallow**  
By Ben Marquez

On March 20, 2009 to March 22, 2009 the Kodiaks and the Falcons went hiking at Bear Wallow. After getting lost in southern Indiana, we arrived had to set up our tents in the dark. We slowly got up and managed to get to the trail by 10:00. On the trail learned a lesson from Dr. Reynolds on hot spots because one of the scouts had a blister. We hiked and hiked looking for our lunch location, then we had lunch right before we found the picnic area. After we found the picnic area, we had a surprise from Dr. Reynolds .He had a watermelon and a cantaloupe in his backpack. The total hike was a little under 13 miles. The next morning after breakfast we had chapel service. In chapel service Elliot sang a Latin song for us. Then we had a police line and then went back to the church.

Historian Report: March 20-22, 2009

### **Rock Climbing at John Bryan State Park**

If one word could only be said to describe the older scout campout to John Bryan State Park, it would be the word "Awesome!" Thanks to Mr. S, Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Rye, Mr. Hallenbeck, and the rock climbing instructors: Barry Atkins, his son Chris Atkins, and Rob Merkel, the campout was full of amazing, fun, and 'interesting' events for everyone. The events of the campout started long before anyone even got to the campsite on Friday, March 21st. The plan for Saturday's lunch was that everybody would have packed their lunch from home, but several scouts forgot to do just that, myself included. All the scouts who had forgotten their lunches got into Mr. Rye's Excursion, A.K.A. "The Tank," and the first stop after leaving the church was the McDonalds just down the road to pick up the next day's lunch. While most of the lunch-less scouts bought a few hamburgers, I wasn't so sure about the belief everybody had about McDonald's food being able to keep overnight, so I just bought some Chicken McNuggets to conserve on cash.

#### On the Road Again...

After buying what hopefully would be tomorrow's lunch, the convoy of three cars, each driven by Mr. S, Mr. Goldberg, and Mr. Rye, headed off to John Bryant State Park. Mr. S was far behind the main group of scouts after having to make a gas stop, so it was just Mr. Rye and Mr. Goldberg who ended up driving around in circles at John Bryant, looking for a good place to set up camp. Eventually, a good spot near the woods was picked, and the scouts emerged from the cars to begin constructing the tents, illumination provided by the headlights of Mr. Rye's Excursion. When camp was set up and Mr. Rye had taken leave of the group, the scouts built a bonfire and cooked some good popcorn over it for cracker barrel that night before heading to bed.

#### At the Crack of Dawn

The following morning, about half of the scouts woke up early to the frigid morning and began to prep for breakfast. The first problem occurred when Will Carlson couldn't get the propane stove to work, forcing him to use his home-brought cooking gear on the open fire, which was already going again thanks to other scouts bringing in plenty of firewood. By the time Avery was up, Will had cooked large pancakes, juicy sausage, fluffy eggs, potato squares, and goetta, an assortment that looked very good, so it's no surprise that everybody was ready to dig in.

Then the second problem occurred: the scouts had forgotten to pack the cutlery, forcing everybody to eat by some other means off of their plates. Despite the setback of no forks or knives, the group still was able to devour the delicious breakfast. During breakfast, Barry Atkins, Chris Atkins, and Rob Merkel came to the camp to check up on the group to see when we would be ready to climb, and after a short discussion left to go get things ready for the scouts. After breakfast, most scouts started to gather more firewood and get

ready to go rock climbing, while Steven LaCount and I were on breakfast cleanup duty. It was right after the two of us had soaped up the bottom of the pot for heating water on the fire that Max Goldberg got the stove working, allowing for the water to be heated up quicker but rendering the soap on the bottom unnecessary. After the water was sufficiently heated up, and the discovery that paper towels had also been forgotten to be packed, Steven and I were aided by Mr. Goldberg in cleaning up by using dry leaves as a substitute to paper towel. Finally, after clean up was finished, the group set out to go climb rocks.

### The Main Event

Except the group somehow went the wrong way, and ended up far from where we were to meet Mr. Atkins. After figuring out which way to go, most of the scouts chose to hike the distance, which was a little over a mile, while Mr. S., Mr. Goldberg, and a few scouts went back to camp to take the cars there. After everybody re-united again at the place where Mr. Atkins was waiting for us, he handed out the gear and helmets everybody needed before he led the group off to the first feature event of the day: rappelling. When the scouts got there, Chris Atkins and Roy Merkel were already waiting for us at the place, and while everybody put on their harnesses, the three instructors gave a talk about how to safely rappel. After Roy went down first to demonstrate, the first scout to go was Nick Burnley, who went down pretty smoothly. I went next, and I discovered how scary it is to try and make that one step off of level terrain onto the cliff face. I made it down after making the one big step onto the side, and afterwards the other scouts began to come down, with one scout acting as the belay for the next person coming down. When a few people had come down the first rappelling line, Mr. Goldberg helped set up a second line so more people could rappel at the same time.

### Switching Activities

After most of the scouts had started to grow tired of rappelling, Mr. Atkins and co. set up the first climbing wall, which was both easier and harder than rappelling, as while climbing doesn't require feeding rope through the harness to go somewhere, it's more physically demanding to pull one's self up a cliff face, let me tell you, since I had some trouble getting up the wall. Other scouts were able to use special climbing shoes, which looked like multi-colored bowling shoes, and were able to get up the wall with less difficulty. Lunch was after all the scouts had climbed the wall once, and the most common sight was those McDonalds burgers bought the day before, which Mr. S liked to call "poison burgers." I cautiously tried a Chicken McNugget, and while not recommended for everyday practice, McDonald Chicken McNuggets do keep overnight, although they tasted like they'd been put in my refrigerator all night. A few scouts tried climbing the wall again after lunch, and then the party moved to a location farther away for a new climbing challenge. After a brief problem with trying to get the rope set up, Max was the first to try to conquer the new challenge, which he did after what looked like to be a very hard climb. Avery, Nick, Alex, and Steven also tried to climb the new wall,



while most of the other scouts took a nap before leaving for the parking lot, they being done climbing and rappelling for the day.

Those who remained, which were just the five adults, Avery, Steven, Alex, Max, and I, went back to the first site to go rappelling again for the last time before Mr. Atkins and co. and the scouts went their separate ways. During that last session of rappelling, Alex tried a third time to go down the rope, and third time truly is the charm for him, as he managed to smoothly go down the rope, only for him to want to do it again. When everything was packed up and the gear returned to Mr. Atkins' car, the scouts thanked him, Chris, and Roy for being there to let the scouts climb and rappel, then the scouts returned to the camp.

### Making Plans

The feature attraction of the campout over with, the group got together around the fire to make plans for the rest of the campout, including how to deal with Sunday, where breakfast would be held at the famous Clifton Mill. It was decided that after dinner, which would somehow be eaten without plates or silverware, all non-personal stuff be loaded into the cars to speed up loading for Sunday morning. In the following period between then and dinner, the scouts went and collected even more firewood, got dinner preparations in place, and played some lacrosse. Come dinnertime, the menu featured: Spicy meat logs, incredibly good garlic bread, baked potatoes (with cheddar cheese), green beans, and yams. Everything was eaten out of makeshift eating materials made from aluminum foil, so clean up was simply toss everything into the garbage bag. Following cleanup was packing up all non-personal gear into the cars, then everybody, including Mr. S, played ultimate Frisbee while waiting for the fire to burn itself out.

When the fire burned out, everybody got into the cars and went to get ice cream at Young's Jersey Dairy. When the group got there, the majority of scouts went to the petting zoo area first, and then everybody got in line for ice cream, which Mr. Goldberg bought for all of us, provided we all repay him at some point. Most of the choices were simple ice cream scoops in a cone, or like my selection, the "Lotsa Bull Shake" with two scoops of the exclusive "cow pie" ice cream on top of 32oz of chocolate goodness. However, my treat paled in comparison to Nick Burley's choice, which was "The Cow Trough," essentially the mother of all ice cream sundaes with 5 individual ice cream scoops, brownies, assorted cookies, mountains of whipped cream, and the standard cherry on top. He almost ate all of it, too, if it hadn't been for the cookies being too much to handle after all the ice cream. When most scouts were done with their treats, water bottles were filled up at the tap in the ice cream parlor before heading back to the camp, where most of the group gathered around the fire, listening to "yo mama" jokes and Mr. Goldberg play the Harmonica, while Max went off somewhere to go burn off all the newly gained excess sugar, and Avery went to bed immediately as to wake up early. Eventually, the group went to bed around 11:00.

### The Home Stretch

The next morning, the Sunday that would see the end of this glorious campout, started off just as cold as Saturday morning did. Amazingly, Avery was one of the first people all packed up and ready to go, before even Will, which usually is something that never happens. When everybody was up, the tents came down, the cars were overloaded with stuff and scouts, and by 8:00 sharp it was as if no one had been at the campsite, if the remaining courtesy pile of firewood was ignored. Halfway to the Clifton Mill, the cars discharged their scouts at the head of a half-mile trail that would lead to the Mill, where the cars would later be waiting for us.

While most of the scouts decided to run all the way, Avery and I chose to take a nice walk on the trail, taking in the sights, and reading about the amazing escape of Cornelius Darnell from Indians, who in the colonial days had jumped across the river at its lower bank, managing to grab hold of a tree on the other side and had ditched his captors on the opposite river bank. After re-uniting with Mr. S. and Mr. Goldberg at the Mill, the scouts were some of the first patrons served in the Clifton Mill's restaurant. Known for the huge pancakes and waffles that were served, most of the party could only handle one of the normal selections. But for Alex, Brett, Avery, and Nick, the only choice was the #10, simply titled: "The Breakfast," a monster platter of all standard breakfast foods that no single person could ever hope to finish alone.

At the end of the hearty breakfast for the group, however, only Mr. Goldberg's plate still had food on it, all the other plates almost literally licked clean, even "The Breakfast" couldn't hold up against four ravenous scouts. The time was around 10 o'clock, so there was still an hour before Mr. Hallenbeck was scheduled to arrive to be the third driver, and chapel wasn't scheduled until 10:45, so the scouts explored the abandoned Christmas village right next to the mill and played some game with the Frisbee until chapel. When the time came for chapel, the scouts pretty much just gathered around a bench and said Amen around it. Lastly, before the group broke up into the three cars, as Mr. Hallenbeck had arrived by then, Mr. S got the scouts together and everybody reflected on the triumphs and hardships that we had all gone through together.



Historian Report: March 24, 2009

**“This applies to Personal Finance, *HOW?*”**

Last week's meeting had the younger scouts split up from the older scouts again, the younger scouts going off somewhere to learn knots while the older scouts sat in on the skill session on the Personal Finance Merit Badge. The skill session was led by none other than the Troop's very own Mr. Ossman, who was well prepared for teaching the skill session as he is a registered counselor for the merit badge. In the skill session, Mr. O covered all the basics about the requirements for this Eagle required badge, including the notorious "13-week budget" requirement. After the skill session, Mr. O handed out a little quiz to test scout's knowledge about various money and time related things along with a bonus question that only Brett Carwile knew: What is Jar-Jar's given name? The question, while not related to the actual skill session nor the infamous Jar-Jar Binks of Star Wars, was related to Mr. O handling Summer Camp sign ups, as the counselor Jar-Jar is now the program director for this year's summer camp.

The game was a basic game of Capture the Flag, although right from the start both teams charged at each other as if they were participating in World War Three. With that kind of start, the game would have been very interesting to watch, no doubt about it, but sadly the game had started too late to get fully underway before all the scouts had to go back in to close up the meeting.

After the game, Dr. Reynolds passed out new troop number patches, the troop number portion turning into olive green numbers on tan backing as compared to the typical white numbers on red backing. These were given to anyone who was wearing the new-style Boy Scout uniform, which pretty much came down to a few adult leaders and all of the Flaming Arrow Patrol. Lastly, right before the scouts closed another meeting with the traditional crossed-hands-amoeba, Dr. Reynolds also swore in the newest Assistant scoutmaster, Ken Wilson, who will also be serving as the new troop "Medicine Man" in light of Dr. Reynolds leaving that position for Scoutmaster.

Ben Hallenbeck

Historian Report: March 31, 2009

### **Playing in the Rain**



At the latest Troop 281 meeting, the shirt to wear was not the usual tan color with too many pockets that is the usual dress code, but the Troop 281 logo shirt, or the "Class B" as it is known. The reason for the alternate dress was that the meeting was the "Outdoor Sports" meeting, where the focus was playing games outside. Apparently the heavens did not like that, and around the time the scouts finally got out to the front churchyard, the rain had started to pour. The scouts would not be deterred from their games, however, and split up into two groups based on height and age. The younger scouts were going to play football, and the older scouts at first played ultimate Frisbee, but later switched over to football as well. Eventually the rain got so heavy that all the scouts chose to go back in the church to do the non-active things in the meeting's agenda.

When the scouts had gotten back into their patrol positions, the new troop Committee Treasurer; Lynette Moughton, was sworn in as the newest adult working for the troop. Then Bret Carwile, the Order of the Arrow representative of the troop, had switched into full uniform after the games had ended. So everyone headed outside to the little yard adjacent to the external Scout Room door to have the new OA members inducted, even though it was still raining.

At the induction, everybody formed a circle while Bret and some assistants stood in the center and explained what the OA was to everyone in case there was someone who didn't know what it was. Bret and his little entourage then went around the circle, bringing his hand down on the shoulder of everybody who was a new OA inductee. Those new inductees being: Grant King, Steven LaCount, Avery Reynolds, Mr. Van Kuren, and Alex Rye (Alex, evidently thinking everybody was circled up for a game of duck duck goose, tried to switch is location so Bret couldn't \*tag\* him). After the new inductees had been assembled in the center and Bret explained what they were now, everybody rejoined the circle and closed the meeting with the traditional Crossed-Hands circle, all the while the rain coming down even harder by that point, so when the meeting was over everybody quickly went inside the church to get out of the downpour.

Historian Report: April 14, 2009

### **Preparations for War**

The troop meeting last week was focused on planning for the upcoming campout: Color War Rematch! The first Color War got rained out by an unending deluge of cold raindrops and was forced to end early on Saturday before some of the big competitions could occur. This time, however, when Senior Patrol Leader Will Carlson was asked if the gods wouldn't rain on the parade this time for Color War, he said "I talked to them, and I think I got it sorted over," so the weather should be better this time around. Then the scouts broke up into patrol corners and began planning what their menus would be on the campout. The Flaming Arrow patrol, being the newest scout patrol, did not plan a menu for some reason, but they say they will have a patrol meeting and will figure out their plans by the next meeting.

When preliminary plans for Color War were made, it was time for the game, which to everybody's delight was the ever-popular Dodgeball! Judging by the mad scurry for the balls when the game started, it was quite evident that things were going to get furious. Noah quickly got attacked by an onslaught in the form of raining dodge balls that he could not avoid. All through the games of Dodgeball, there were a few participants that were clearly the most aggressive players on the field: Mr. Adkerson and Alex Rye on one team, Mr. Black and Dillon Whitehead on the other.

After everybody was done trying to kill each other by pelting soft foam balls across the room, the scouts fell in for some final announcements. Some final comments on the flower sale were made, and Mr. Dan Katt was sworn in as the new troop Chaplain before the scouts circled up and called it a night.

Historian Report: Week of April 19, 2009

### **Flying Eagles and Swim School**

*For this week's Historian column, I will be covering two events: Zack Obbie's Eagle Ceremony and the swim meet at Anderson High School's indoor pool, as they both happened in the past week.*

On Sunday, April 19th, a gathering of scouts, parents, and friends assembled the church's Fellowship Hall to attend another Eagle Court, this time to grant Zack Obbie the revered, lofty rank of Eagle Scout. After Mr. McNeese welcomed all who had come and called the "Court" to order, Dillon Whitehead led the color guard to post the colors. The "Trail to Eagle", a staple presentation of eagle ceremonies and courts of honor in the troop, explained each rank in detail ranging from the starting rank of Scout to Life Scout.

When the Life Scout rank was done, the curtain on the stage rose to reveal a giant replica of the Eagle Scout medal, and present on the stage were three of Troop 281's Eagle Scouts: Jason Whitehead, Chase Whitehead, and Mr. Siebenburgen, who spoke in turns while explaining what the Eagle Scout rank and badge truly meant. To finish the "Trail to Eagle," Dr. Reynolds, Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout himself, presented Zack and his parents with the Eagle medal, Eagle lapel pin (for Mrs. Obbie), Eagle tie pin (for Mr. Obbie), and everything else that comes with the Eagle Scout rank. Zack then knelt before a cross, asking God for assistance to help him as an Eagle Scout, after which Dr. Reynolds presented Zack to the audience as an Eagle Scout at last. When the Ceremony was finished, Zack had this to say about finally becoming an Eagle Scout, "I feel relieved, a lot less stressed, and glad that I've finally got what I've worked towards for so long." Zack has a bright future ahead of him, and his new rank as an Eagle Scout will no doubt help him towards his own goals that lie before him.

Following Zack's Eagle Ceremony was the most recent meeting, which was one of the more special events: swim night. Unlike the usual meetings in the church, swim night takes place at the pool located inside Anderson High School, near the church. Starting at an early time of 7:00, compared to typical scout meetings, the night got rolling quickly on its main focus, the BSA swim test. Every year, the scouts need to be tested to see if they can prove that they are a swimmer under BSA standards, adults as well. The test consists of swimming 100 yards, 25 of which must be done in some form of backstroke (which translates into 4 laps back and forth in the pool with the last one being done in backstroke), then be able to do the "dead man's float" for 10 seconds. It's a relatively simple test that as far as I know, everybody passed as a "swimmer," adults as well. After everybody was tested, the scouts played in the shallow end of the pool, did some crazy diving board tricks, or worked on rank advancement with older scouts by learning different types of water rescue before everyone was dismissed and waited for their rides home before going out into the chilly air outside.

Historian Report: April 24, 2009 – April 26, 2009

## **COLOR WARS II: ATTACK OF THE SCOUTS**

On Friday, April 24th, the scouts gathered to load the trusty Troop 281 trailer full of both personal gear and very heavy patrol boxes in final preparation for the next campout, Color Wars: Rematch! The anticipation for this particular campout was especially high, as the previous Color War campout earlier in the scout year had been ended early due to the unending deluge of cold rain the entire weekend. This time, however, the weather was relatively calm and warm, a complete 180 from the miserable conditions of the last Color War.

From the start, everybody knew this was going to be an interesting Color War. Due to the location of the scout campsites in the back of Camp Achewon, the trailer needed to be hauled as far up the drivable path as possible, but Mr. Carlson's car was struggling to pull the heavy trailer even on paved roads, and without Mr. Ossman's "Mighty Yukon," the problem seemed to have no solution. Then Mr. S, the former Troop 281 scoutmaster, showed up and devised a plan to use his uncle's tractor (Mr. S' uncle owns the land Achewon sits on) to pull the trailer to the back of the camp. After fixing a small breakdown with the trailer hitch, the tractor was able to haul the trailer...with a small army of scouts pushing it from the back. Another problem arose when both the Hurricane and Viking Patrols claimed the Falcon Ridge campsite as their Color War HQ, but settled the matter by simply combining themselves temporarily into the Black Dragon Patrol. The Falcon and Kodiak Bear Patrols also combined into the Falcon Bear Patrol, leaving only three patrols competing in Color Wars: Black Dragon, Falcon Bear and Flaming Arrow.

The next morning, the Falcon Bear Patrol performed flag raising, and Color Wars truly began with open season being declared for flag stealing. After being dismissed from flag raising, the patrols went through a round robin of challenges that were: tent set up/pack up time trial, a test of first aid know-how in an "emergency" case, Will Carlson's card challenges, and a lengthy orienteering course set up by Avery Reynolds. After the four challenges were done with, the patrols went back to their campsites for lunch. During that time, I asked some of the Falcon Bear patrol members on their opinions on this Color War, and these are their responses:

Elliot Horstman: "Awesome! I've never been on such a fun campout!"

Ross King: "Happy, and fun!"

Alex Stringfellow: "Interesting, better than the last Color War (due to it getting rained out). The Flaming Arrows are easy prey, and we get our own campsite this time."

The second half of Color Wars started around 2 PM when the famous "fire building

contest” took place, where one scout from each patrol builds a fire with only one match, while all the rest of the scouts go gather burning material. The challenge was supposed to last around half an hour, but thanks to Nick Burnley (of the Black Dragons) having both skills at setting fire to things and a pre-harvested supply of easy-burning hay, Nick literally “smoked” the competition in 10 minutes, although some flag stealing was attempted in that time. After the fire burning contest was a second round robin with different challenges: the traditional Spider Web maze, the “tower of power” (with one scout always holding a hula hoop, the patrol must get the hoop down a very tall pole then back up again while being timed), the “bound ankles” challenge, a blindfold obstacle course, and Carlson’s Challenge Cards 2.0. The obstacle course, “tower of power”, and the bound ankles were fun challenges, but “spider web” was the most difficult of all the challenges, being that most scouts were too large to fit through the holes (the Black Dragons built human pyramids to get Nick Burnley over the top), and Will Carlson’s challenge was a little ridiculous (the most ridiculous one forcing one scout to consume an entire package of Oreo cookies. And no, I’m not pulling legs here, I’m dead serious that Will Carlson got scouts to force bunches of Oreo cookies into their mouths.)

#### Iron Chef: Achewon

After the second round robin was the dinner challenge, where the patrols make their best dishes to impress the brave tasting judges (I think health coverage is provided, not sure), who for this campout were Mr. Wilson and Mr. Carlson. The Black Dragon patrol simply made a giant smorgasbord of what originally were going to be their separate dinners (Hamburgers for Viking and Steak Chunks for Hurricane). However, before dinner could be served, Brandon Bodner got an injury when he got accidentally cut by a pocketknife, and had to leave the campground to go get medical attention. After dinner was flag lowering and campfire, the latter being held at the chapel. At campfire, there were demonstrations of skits, songs (Nick Burnley and Joel Neuhart sang the theme from “Dragon Tales”, and sang it off-key too), and scary stories. When campfire was done, the scouts split up into various activities: the Flaming Arrow patrol went to roast marshmallows, some scouts went to bed, some took Bret Carwile up on the offer to “sleep under the stars” and went to fetch their sleeping bags, and the rest gathered in front of the flag poles to play the famous “hide and seek” camp wide game, where the scouts do their best ninja impersonations and try to hide in the woods while the adults go try and find them in a period of 30 minutes, give or take (this also plays into the Color Wars scoring structure: a patrol gets 1 point for every scout not found by the adults). Only two scouts were found, Nick Burnley and Jack Van Keuren, but only because they thought someone saw them and kept asking “Who is that between (campsite name) and (campsite name)?” and so were caught in the process of switching hiding spots. No other hiding scout was found, however, and so after the game ended the scouts went back to their camps and went to bed.

The next morning started off kind of groggy, as half-asleep scouts began to disassemble their tents in preparation for leaving. At flag raising, flag stealing was ended, pretty much ending Color Wars, but Brett (acting SPL as Will had left the previous night to go to the



Turpin High School Prom) would not reveal who won the War until he would dismiss everybody back at church. After flags, the scouts who camped in the woods brought their belongings out to the parade field to be picked up by the trailer...except Mr. S was away, and only he could operate the tractor, so the troop trailer was hauled to the parking lot on top of a hill where it would be loaded without danger of being too heavy to haul up the hill. The patrol boxes were driven to the trailer via the golf cart, which the adults drove around in. For the personal belongings of the scouts, the only option was to carry, haul, or drag their gear to the trailer.

When the trailer was mostly packed, the scouts attended chapel with Mr. Katt giving a speech about the underlying themes of the "David and Goliath" Bible story. After the scouts were done with chapel, the trailer was loaded with the final items the scouts had brought, and then performed a series of "police lines" all the way back to the cars to ensure that there was no trash left where the scouts had been. When the camp was deemed clean, the scouts headed back to the church. Finally, after the trailer was unpacked, tent cleaning duties assigned, and other post-campout necessities were done with, Brett called the scouts to fall in one last time to announce the winner of Color Wars: the Black Dragon Patrol, the Falcon Bears surprisingly not far behind in second, and in third/last place was the Flaming Arrow patrol, not far behind the Falcon Bears.

Historian Report: April 28, 2009

### **Owls and Hawks and Flying Tennis Balls, Oh My!**



At the most recent troop meeting, the scouts were treated to a little presentation by Raptor Inc., a non-profit company that rescues, rehabilitates, and educates about birds of prey. The presenters, who introduced themselves as Dan and Bob, talked about local birds of prey and allowed some preserved bird claws to be passed around in the seated scouts. Dan and Bob had also brought three birds that were considered “permanently injured,” or in other words had problems that would prevent them from being able to live properly, and so can not be released back into nature. In order of presentation, the birds Dan and Bob had brought were a Great Horned Owl, a tiny Eastern Screech Owl, and a feisty Red Tailed Hawk. The Great Horned Owl was reasonably behaved, but the Screech Owl made a small release of excess weight on the church floor, and the hawk constantly wanted to try taking off in flight as well as leaving some excess weight on the ground as well. Overall, the presentation was well received by the Troop, and Dan and Bob were thanked for taking the time to come out and talk about the birds.

After helping load all the stuff Dan and Bob had brought so they could return the birds home (and let that Hawk go and fly, no doubt), the scouts began to play a game called “Wall Ball”, which is like playing dodge ball except with tennis balls tossed at the wall. I can only describe the scene of scouts playing the game as a fast-moving mass of flailing limbs and green dots bouncing all over creation. Elsewhere, some level of sanity had been preserved as Boards of Review were being held for several scouts who were ready to go to the next rank, and from what I know is that all scouts who had been ‘reviewed’ will get their next rank patch at the next Court of Honor.

After full sanity had been restored by ending the Wall Ball game, several new appointments were announced and sworn in. First, five scouts were sworn in as new Den Chiefs, they being: Elliot Horstman, Steven Kuharski, Alex Stringfellow, and Grant and Ross King. The new Den Chief Counslor; Mr. Dunham, was sworn in after them, and lastly, Steven LaCount was sworn in as the new Chaplain’s Aide.

Historian Report: May 5, 2009

### **Blood, Sweat, and Gears**

At the latest scout meeting, the subject was Auto Mechanics, which believe it or not, is an actual merit badge. After the usual beginning for every typical meeting, the scouts were led outside to the parking lot behind the playground for the skill session, where the flower orders were originally set out. At that place, several of the assistant scoutmasters had set up three stations to teach scouts about different aspects of car repair or to give them hands on experience: Mr. Adkerson with a station reviewing basics for tire, engine, and brake care; Mr. Van Keuren with a hands-on lesson on switching out tires (on the trailer, as the adults probably were not letting scouts swap tires on the real cars); and Mr. Ossman and a crash course in various car parts (although, since there were so many different parts - along with various car manuals Mr. Ossman had - it looked more like a flea market seller's table). While the adults did a good job not showing it, they were probably belying some concerns over the cars being able to get back home without needing a tow truck, but in the end they were able to drive their vehicles back relatively unscathed, the extent of the damage probably being one car having a wheel with insufficient air pressure in it.

After the scouts had all been through the stations, everybody went back inside. Since the Auto Mechanics skill session had taken so long, there was no time for a game, but there were other things that needed to be done. Right after coming back into the church, the scouts assembled in the chapel to nominate scouts to be candidates for the staff position of Senior Patrol Leader. Then, after the scouts fell in again, Noah Rechtin talked about how he was taking names to be volunteer counselors for a summer Cub Scout day camp (apparently lots of people want to be stationed at the BB rifle range - myself included). Mr. Ashley was also present and announced the seven people who had completed BSA Snorkeling training in order to go on the Sea Base trip (5 scouts, two adults). No more announcements came after Mr. Ashley's, so Will had everybody circle up and call it a night.

Historian Report: May 12, 2009

### **Election Night**

The most recent troop meeting began a little earlier at 7:00, but only for those who were going on the whitewater rafting campout this upcoming weekend so the plans as to how to carry out the trip could be established. Half an hour later, the real meeting began as usual. To start off the meeting, Joel Neuhart hosted a short skill session on the 8 and 9 points of safe swimming, which was a good refresher for those going on the upcoming campout.

After the skill session, the scouts headed into the chapel to cast their votes for the next Senior Patrol Leader (S.P.L.). The nominee votes had been counted from last meeting, and three scouts were eligible for the position: Bret Carwile, Joel Neuhart, and Avery Reynolds. After each of the candidates had given their speeches, the other scouts were given a sheet with the names of the three possible choices and were instructed to circle the name of who they wanted to be the S.P.L. before handing the sheets back in. When all the votes for the next S.P.L. were turned in, the next item on the agenda was Patrol Leader nominations for the individual patrols, but unlike the S.P.L. votes, scouts could choose two scouts to nominate to run for Patrol Leader. Finally, after passing in the second round of ballots, the scouts went back into the main hall to play “swing the thing,” where one scout swings a “thing,” an unlucky paper towel tied to the end of a rope, trying to trip scouts who are jumping over the “thing” a few feet away from the swinger.

In between the elections and the game, I got comments from the S.P.L. nominees in regards to their feelings about the election:

Avery Reynolds: “This election could decide the course of my life for the next year!”

Bret Carwile: “The three candidates are great, any one of them would be great for the troop.”

Joel Neuhart: “I think whoever is elected S.P.L. will do a phenomenal job!”

At the end of the meeting, the results of the two elections had been tallied and were announced. The new S.P.L. after Will Carlson’s term ended would be Avery Reynolds, although the votes for each candidate were reportedly very close. For Patrol Leader candidates, they are: Max Goldberg and Steven LaCount for Hurricane, Nick Burnley and Dante Smith for Viking, Adam Oppold and Matthew Ruehlman for the Kodiak Bears, and lastly Ben Marquez and Alex Stringfellow for the Falcons. The Flaming Arrow patrol had already elected their Patrol Leader at a previous date, so they did not need to perform elections.

One last big event occurred right before the meeting was closed, however, and that event was Dillon Whitehead receiving his Eagle Scout patch from the previous scoutmaster,

Mr. Siebenburgen, completing the Whitehead Eagle Scout trio. Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead were also in attendance as well so Mrs. Whitehead could pin the patch onto her son. When she pinned the rank onto Dillon, however, the resulting scene could be compared to Captain Parmenter receiving his Medal of Honor from the 1960's TV show F-Troop.

Historian Report: May 15-17, 2009

### **West Virginia: Wild, Wonderful, and WET!**

May 15th saw the scouts gearing up for one of the most anticipated campouts of the year: the Whitewater Campout! The troop rarely gets the ability to have such a campout due to the factors of cost and scheduling, so many of the scouts going were already getting adrenaline pumping in their veins even before the convoy of vehicles left the church parking lot! The location of the campout was in West Virginia, as the title no doubt explains, and so would require a lengthy drive. The plan was to drive about 6 hours overall between the church and the campsite, 2 hours for a single leg of the trip one way and including two 1-hour stops in between (the first to refill the humans, the second to refill the cars).

However, as said in a famous poem by Robert Burns, “the best laid plans of mice and men, often go wrong,” the trip down to West Virginia had its problems. The first of those problems being when at the first stop for dinner, the choice was at a “Sonic” drive-in eatery, where they’d apparently never had such a large group as the scout envoy and so were rather slow in getting everybody their orders. (Will Carlson, on the other hand, charmed a group of young attractive girls with his guitar skills while we were waiting.) After waiting far longer than an hour, everybody eventually got fed and got back on the road, only for the sky to threaten a fierce rainstorm. The scouts’ luck managed to hold out until the little convoy hit a series of steep hills, at which time the skies opened up and poured out what seemed to be a sea’s worth of water onto the earth. The rain stopped right before the scouts got to a BP to refill on gas, at which point purchases of late night goodies like chips and candy were made before the last leg was started. Towards 11:15 PM, the convoy finally reached the campsite, and it wasn’t until one in the morning till everybody had pitched tents and they were sound asleep.

#### On the River

The next morning had breakfast around 7:30, with simple oatmeal for scouts while the adults had a considerably larger meal. After breakfast, the scouts changed and prepared their dry bags for the trip’s main event: whitewater rafting on the Upper New River. The eager party departed camp at 9:45, arrived at the main location of the Class VI rafting company, and began checking in for the 10:30 trip on the New River. After putting on all the necessary equipment (near-skin tight wetsuits, water jackets, life jackets, and helmets), the rafters traveled up to the launching point in a bus while the trip leader (named George) began a crash course on whitewater rafting 101 at the front of the bus. When the group had arrived at the launch point and the two kinds of watercraft available; the one/two seater “duckies” (inflatable kayaks) and the typical raft were ready, the trip began with some rapids almost right at the start, but nothing that wasn’t a problem for anybody.

The first half of the rafting was a combination of rapids, short periods of calm, and naval warfare by way of splashing via hands and paddles – in short a whole lot of fun was had. CSX also had track that followed the river for all the distance that the scouts would travel on the Upper New River, and there were a few trains that passed in both directions, providing some interesting periodic railfanning opportunities. Right when the party hit the midpoint, marked by a short but wild rapid, the group paddled ashore and had lunch.

#### “Oreo Cake”

For the mid-day meal, the rafting company had brought a little buffet of sandwich fixings, various salads, and “Oreo Cake” for desert, all in all an excellent little riverside lunch. By the time most of the food had been consumed, everybody pitched in to help clean up what was left and reloaded the tables and water cooler onto the rafts before the boats were afloat again and heading across the river to the other side, the next hot spot to see being this old railroad tunnel that was flooded. The tunnel dated back to right before the Civil War, and the scouts were not only allowed going through it, but were also allowed to check out a neat waterfall behind it before the group had to continue on down the river. After a series of small rapids and a rather long period of calm river (the battlefield for duckie warfare, where a few people got dunked into the river), the group hit the rapid known as “Silo,” a.k.a. the longest rapid on the entire trip (a Class III rapid), and going through “Silo” was worth the 6+ hour drive the previous day. The convoy of boats hit some more rapids after “Silo” before reaching the end point, where the duckies were deflated and the rafts reloaded onto the trailer, and everybody got back on the bus, where George handed out soda pop to everybody.

#### Drying Out – Again!

The scouts’ luck had been holding out the entire day, as the forecast had called for a big rainstorm to hit around the time the rafting trip began. However, the skies had begun to darken around the time the group made it through “Silo,” and right as the bus took everybody back to the cars was when the skies opened up again. The problem, however, was that the rain did not stop after half an hour or so, it only rained harder over time. At the Class VI headquarters, however, the scouts showered, changed into dry clothes, returned the gear they had borrowed, and went to the café above the souvenir shop to watch a video of the whitewater adventure (which had encountered some severe handicaps like an uncooperative battery and had a reduced price of \$10, a low enough price for some to buy it, myself included since the still pictures were far more expensive).

#### Beef Stew & Stroganoff

When the scouts had finished buying souvenirs, etc., it was time to head back to the camp to make dinner, which thankfully was easy due to there being a structure providing a roof from the downpour that was still coming down with no signs of stopping. The scouts’ dinner was a delicious beef stew made by Nick Burnley, while the adults once again had

a feast for a meal, including beef stroganoff and about two other main dishes, but prayer for everybody was led by Steven LaCount. When dinner was finishing up, the rain had at last stopped, but the damage was done: the tent Nick Burnley and Bret Carwhile shared had somehow gotten absolutely soaked along with everything in it, forcing Nick to sleep in one of the cars and Bret to use the backup tent. The fire pit was also soaked, and there seemed to be no hope of finding any wood close by that was dry enough to start a fire, so some of the group left to go buy some dry wood. However, by the time they got back with some dry wood, Nick had once again proven his unofficial title of “Troop Pyro” by managing to start a fire with the wet wood around him. After the dishes from dinner were all cleaned up, it was time for cracker barrel, where everybody was able to indulge in the same tasty treat: the S’more! (A standard in outdoor living cuisine) I went to bed soon after, but before I could doze off there was some commotion outside, and one of those flatbed trucks was moving about in the parking lot for some reason. Due to my state of sleepiness, I decided to learn what happened tomorrow.

### Doughnuts

The next morning, I think I was the first one fully packed up and out of my tent out of everybody else in the group, which made waiting for them to wake up a very long time as it took around 90 minutes for everybody to wake up and leave their tents for breakfast. The scouts simply had doughnuts to simplify clean up (just throw the boxes away), while the adults had yet another large meal to eat. Due to the fact that a 6+ hour drive still lay ahead of the group, those who had finished eating began to start packing their stuff up and breaking down tents, or began to load up Mr. Black’s pickup with the general camping gear again to hasten departure. When everything was loaded up again and the campsite policed, Steven performed a quick chapel service under the shelter before everybody began the trip home.

### A Last Look at the New River

The first stop was actually at the New River Gorge visitor’s center, where there were nice restrooms with hot water and a 200-foot staircase that led to a platform giving a great view of the river and the signature bridge, which was 20 feet taller than two Statue of Liberties put on top of the Washington Monument! After going to the center and learning a bit about the area’s history, the scouts began the real trip back home. The trip home was like the trip there with its division of travel and breaks, but the lunch break was made at a Fazoli’s restaurant, and the food was not only better than Sonic’s but the food was served at a much faster pace as well compared to the long wait at Sonic. However, many scouts needed to use the restroom, and due to the fact the Fazoli’s only had a single-stall restroom, the wait was a bit long, and to kill time some scouts (including Dr. Reynolds) began playing Frisbee in the parking lot. The rest of the trip after Fazoli’s was rather uneventful, everybody arriving at the church around the estimated time of 4 PM in a state of tiredness but fulfillment as well in regards to the campout. After a slight crisis involving tent assignments, S.P.L. Will Carlson dismissed everybody, and so the whitewater rafters began to break up towards their homes and a nice, hot shower.



Historian Report: May 19, 2009

### **Planning for the Future**

At the latest troop meeting, the main focus was on planning the next campout, the Water Sports campout. So, the first half of the meeting was pretty much the individual patrols planning their menus and deciding what gear they need to bring. Patrol Leader elections were held after the menus were decided, and after all patrols had voted for their candidates (or in the case of the Hurricanes, simply usher in the guy who volunteered for the job, that guy being Greg Brinkman), the scouts fell back in to get the results. The game of the meeting was the ever-insane classic, Spud! However, before long, the scouts abandoned the indoor game in favor of playing outside, and so the game was changed to Ultimate Frisbee. When it was time to fall in, Scoutmaster Dr. Reynolds had everybody gather outside, more specifically at the flagpole that had been Dillon Whitehead's Eagle Project – a change of pace from the usual indoor procedure in order to honor the incumbent Eagle Scout. Otherwise the troop closed the meeting in the traditional clasped-hands circle like always.

While not part of any activity scheduled by the troop itself, Dr. Reynolds and four other scouts: Avery Reynolds, Jack Van Keuren, Greg Brinkman, and I acted as a color guard in the memorial service for the late Mr. Wayne E. Baughman. His widow, Linda Baughman, could not get the pastor of the service to allow a full military color guard in the memorial service (Mr. Baughman had served in the Air Force), so the scouts performed one instead, as Mr. Baughman had also served the Boy Scouts for about 52 years.

Historian Report: May 26, 2009

### **East Fork Lake Adventure**

Nick Burnley

We had a great weekend of boating, birthdays, biking, and small run-ins with camp security. We had many people contribute their boats, including three big power boats from Mr. Neuhart, Mr. Carlson, and Mr. Rye. Brett Carwile, Andrew and Vic Black, and myself went off to ride bikes on the East Fork mountain bike trails on the south side of the lake. The day finished with a showing of the movie, "Happy Feet" at the camp's outdoor movie theater, but most of us left early to enjoy Mr. Siebenburgen' freshly-baked cobbles.

The next day, before departing, we cleaned up the beach as a troop service project.



*Ben Hallenbeck, Historian*

Ben is a 17-year-old Star Scout who proudly wears the Arrow of Light badge. He is also a junior at Turpin High School. He was recently selected to be Historian/Scribe for Troop 1314 when it attends the 100<sup>th</sup>. National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia this summer. He enjoys writing and has great interest in trains and model railroading.