



The Old Man

Issue XVIII

www.troop70.org

Spring 2007

UPCOMING TROOP EVENTS

- Apr. 21-22nd 8:00am Camp out -
Camp Wisdom
Apr. 27th WJ shakedown
May 4th OA Ordeal
May 7th Spring Picnic and COH
6:15 pm at park across from
school
Jun 3-9 Summer Camp

The troop calendar for 2005 - 2006 is posted on the website. Please visit the site and download a PDF file for either a monthly or yearly version. Visit early, visit often.

TROOP 70 GOES TO SUMMER CAMP - JUNE 3

By: Bill Knapp

Troop 70 will attend Summer Camp at Camp Constantin on beautiful Possum Kingdom Reservoir again this summer. Dates: Depart - 9 a.m., Sunday, June 3, Return 1 p.m., Sat., June 9.

Cost: \$265. Fee includes round trip bus transportation, all meals and programs. Please make checks to BSA Troop 70 and deliver to Assistant Scoutmasters Bill Knapp or Roger Smith.

A valid Class 2 (or higher) BSA Medical Form must be submitted to Mr. Knapp by May 15th in order to attend camp. The forms are available via the web on www.troop70.org Or www.circle10.org.

Scout summer camp is a great way to start the summer with fun, sun and earning up to 5 great outdoor merit badges. Parents, please do not let your Scout miss this opportunity.

Please make your reservation soon!

Recent Eagle Awards

Troop 70 Scouts distinguish themselves by earning the coveted Eagle Scout award. It is the highest earned advancement award a Scout can receive. The recent award recipients are:

#383 Will Leifeste

#384 Bobby Beecherl
#385 Thomas Welch
#386 Brian Dickenson
#387 John Shaw
#388 Edward Beecherl
#389 Chris Hewitt
Congratulate these Scouts on their accomplishment.

Who will be number 400 ?

SO, HOW DO I ADVANCE?

By: CHRIS HEWITT

Some of the most frequently asked questions at Troop 70 revolve around advancement. Why doesn't the troop do merit badges at troop meetings? Why isn't my scout advancing faster? How do I go about getting merit badges? What is a Board of Review?

The troop's approach to these issues derives from a central concept: the scout should take responsibility for the manner and speed at which he advances. This philosophy requires that the scout actively seek advancement throughout his career in scouting. At the first three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class), many of the training opportunities are provided by the troop, but the scout must attend meetings and campouts regularly and bring his scout book and other required materials to advance. Beyond the initial ranks to the honor ranks, advancement becomes more scout initiated and motivated.

Therefore, in the first year or two, most scouts should focus on basic scout skills and should regularly speak with scoutmasters or boy staff (who can also sign off on most skills). They should advocate for themselves and present their books if they believe they are ready to demonstrate skills that may or may not have been covered in the regular sessions.

After reaching First Class, the scout is responsible for initiating and completing merit badges and other requirements. Some merit badges can

be earned at summer camp or at merit badge colleges regularly held by the area counsel. In addition, non-required merit badges may be earned with registered counselors, who need not be uniformed leaders. The troop tries to maintain a list of qualified counselors, and you are encouraged to sign up if you have an area you would like to teach. Required badges are generally signed off by uniformed leaders in the troop.

The scout should identify and approach the counselor for a counseling session before commencing work on a badge. This process enables the scout to understand the requirements of the badge and the expectations of the counselor. The scout then performs the requirements independently and returns for discussion and sign off when he feels he has accomplished the requirements. Sometimes the scout may get final sign off the first time, but repeated attempts are not at all unusual.

Once the scout has accumulated the necessary badges and met any other applicable requirements, he must participate in a scoutmaster conference and board of review to receive his next rank advancements. Boards of review are composed of three adults, usually with two non-uniformed leaders. At the board, the scout is encouraged to discuss his experiences and to share ideas related to his scouting career. He is also asked to expand his leadership role as he advances up the ranks.

The benefits of this approach are that it requires the scout to pursue and defend his work. Over time, the interaction with several adults on a near-equal basis builds initiative and confidence. At the end of the trail, the scout should have taken equity in his scouting experience and whatever rank he ultimately achieves he should

take pride that he earned it through his own efforts. Thus, the process, or trail, to Eagle becomes at least as important as the destination.

2006 - 2007 TROOP 70 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

By Hudson Lockett

It's hard to believe, but we're just a month away from the end of the Scouting year. Looking back at the past 35 weekly meetings and 6 weekend camps, it's exciting to see what we've experienced and what we've learned.

At the Troop's Junior Leadership Training last August, the youth and adult leaders worked together to plan out a program that is fun and meaningful, all in the context of Scouting skills.

The program was planned around a monthly cycle. A specific theme or skill was explored during the three to four meetings prior each monthly camp. Then the boys were able to practice their newly learned skill at that month's camp.

We started the year with our Scoutmaster leading a "Mythbusters" program segment on starting fires without matches. This activity has been a long time favorite of Scouts for not quite one hundred years, but Mr. Pospick took a more modern look at solving this age old problem. Some of the methods included: polishing the bottom of a soda can to create a highly reflective parabolic mirror to focus the sun's rays, use of a cell phone battery and some of the more traditional methods such as flint and steel. Slightly overcast camping conditions only allowed for more creative methods to be employed.

We followed with an introduction to "Space Exploration" Merit Badge. Mr. Lockett provided all the requirements and easy "how to" instructions for any Scout that was interested to easily complete this fun and interesting badge. This program segment ended with each Patrol being given their own model rocket kit to construct and bring to the camp out at the Holmes Ranch. Instructions were given and a safe rocket range established. All of the rockets were successfully launched with some literally flying out of sight! Several boys completed this Merit Badge in time to receive it at the next Court of Honor.

Our next program was led by one of our most experienced backpackers, Mr. Weaver.

Along with the boys who had participated in the Summer Colorado Expedition 3, the basics of backpacking, high adventure tents and trail food preparation were detailed. These instructions were put to the test as the whole troop gathered at the Lake Grapevine dam and with backpacks in place hiked five miles over hilly, lakeside terrain to a fabulous lake side camp ground. This was so successful, it might become a new Troop 70 tradition! And they say you can't teach an old troop new tricks.

One of the most important elements of Scouting came next as Dr. Tittle presented four very informative presentations on First Aid. This included the use of medical equipment and some very convincing "wounds" and stage blood for effect. Having a trained professional serve as our instructor for these skills really gave the boys a first rate experience in many aspects in first aid from the simple removal of a splinter to the all important "hurry cases." In an effort to make sure your sons have ample instruction in this skill we try to include a segment on First Aid every year. There have been several examples in recent Troop history where boys trained in Troop 70 have made the difference at the scene of an accident.

David Baxter led a team building program segment as we started the new year with new Patrol Leaders. Each week, in this program, involved games and races focused on getting each Patrol to work as a team including relay races model building and even a shoe matching free for all. The culmination of this program segment was to have been an opportunity for the Scouts to tackle the high ropes COPE course at Camp Wisdom. Unfortunately, for the first time this year, a much needed, but not appreciated, rain storm canceled the camp out. We'll be back next year!

Another of our New Assistant Scoutmasters, Mr. Roger Smith, lent his expertise in fire arm safety to a very interested Troop. His presentations included the history of different types of fire arms and especially focused on the safe handling of them and the different

types of hunting in Texas. The boys were very focused on these instructions as they knew that at the next campout they would each have the opportunity to put what they had learned to practice. With the assistance of ASM Joe Crafton, a skeet range was set up and operated at the Smith Ranch, outside of Justin. Over 400 clay pigeons were targets for every boy interested in trying their hand at shooting in the unique environment of the strong winds that blew in from west Texas that afternoon. Additionally, Mr. Smith gave a one of a kind demonstration of some of the antique weapons in his personal collection. Even the most veteran of Troop 70 leaders agreed that it was like no other event in Troop history.

Cap'n Chris Hewitt and a few scurvy 'mates provide a nautically theme look at the art of knot tying, lashings (the one you use to tie things together, not the type pirates use to raise crew morale) and camp craft gadgets. The knowledge of these very traditional Scout skills were put to the test at the March campout as four teams of Scouts lashed together catapults and when complete, proceeded to bombard the other teams with water balloons from over 50 yards away. The most securely lashed catapult not only held together the best, but was most accurate.

As the Scouting year winds down we have returned to a Scouting basic of safety. Back in the days of 'yore, Safety Merit Badge was required for Eagle. The very timely and important topics for safety include the requirements for licensing for use and safety on Jet Skis. Our final program element for the year is the timely (with the Scout recently lost in North Carolina) topic of what to do to avoid being lost, and how to react in the, unlikely, event a Scout actually becomes lost.

Every week this year, the programs presented, have provided your sons with the opportunity to learn a skill or knowledge of a topic that they can utilize, not only at the camp out that month, but throughout

their lives. ***When a Scout misses a meeting, they are missing out on an opportunity to improve themselves while having fun!***

The Old Man is Published by Troop 70, BSA. Articles are contributed by its members and leaders.
Editor -Charles Holmes

2007 World Jamboree

The 21st World Jamboree is just 90 days away. Troop 70 has a significant representation of Scouts who will be attending. Those Scouts are:

Our very own Hudson Lockett will be one of the two area Scoutmasters. It is quite an honor to be selected for such a position but he is well experienced to deliver a tremendous trip to our Scouts.

Here are the Scouts from our troop who are attending:

Carson D Holmes, ASM
James C Baxter
James F Crafton
Adam J S Goldman
R William Meachum, Jr.
Grant E Moore
Walker C Mullinix
William R Pospick
Walter R Pospick
Peter C Sode

THE TROOP COMMITTEE

By: John Wesner

The Troop Committee serves the troop much like a board of directors serves a corporation. They handle the majority of the administrative affairs of the troop which frees up the Scoutmaster and his assistants to devote most of their time and attention to working directly with the boys and their activities. When you have a troop of over 100 scouts, it takes a lot of effort from a lot of people. These committee members spend countless hours "behind the scenes" keeping the troop operating effectively and efficiently. Current member of the troop committee who serve as chairman of their respective areas of responsibility are:

John Wesner - Chairman
Charles Spradley- Advancement
Chairman (keeps

track of merit badges and rank advancement)
Bobby Baxter - Greenery Chairman
Louis Beecher - Camping Chairman (handles logistics of getting trailer to and from camp)
Pat Faubion - Treasurer (manages and keeps track of troop funds and finances)
Leslie Melson - Publicity Chairman and Eagle Reception Coordinator
Charles Holmes - Communication Chairman (publishes newsletter and maintains web site)
Bob Shaw - Recruiting Chairman
Martha Archibald- Uniform Exchange Chairman
Jim Phillips - Equipment Chairman, Committee Advisor, and Council Liaison

From time to time there are vacancies on the troop committee. If you see an area you might be interested in serving in the future, please contact John Wesner.

THIS MONTHS CAMPOUT A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

This weekend will see Troop 70 travel to Camp Wisdom. While it is not known when the troop first started to camp there, it was probably very early in the history of the troop and camp, in the early thirties.

Camp Wisdom was named after John Shelby (Daddy) Wisdom. It is not quite clear when or where he was born but his older brother told him it was in 1855 at Mulberry, Arkansas.

As a young man, he traveled to West Texas where he worked on several notable ranches. One Spring he and several other cowboys drove a herd of cattle to the western banks of the Trinity River. They camped near Eagle Ford and one morning he rose to gather the horses that were not hobbled. His pony slipped and fell against a tree, breaking Daddy Wisdom's leg.

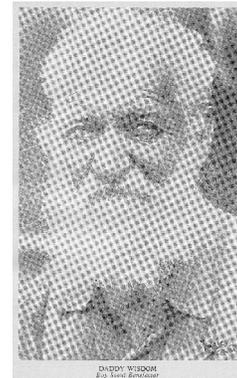
During the time he was recovering from his injury, he stayed in a home in Oak Cliff. He enjoyed listening to music

in "French Town", a small store run by a widow woman. He grew fond of her and they married in McKinney, Tx. After living close to Aledo, Tx, they moved to West Dallas in 1892.

The site of Camp Wisdom was known as "public land" and was used by several farmers to graze cattle. Daddy Wisdom discovered who the owner was and walked to Ft. Worth, several times, to work out buying the land. He and his long time friend L. A. Pires "Pink", his stepson, paid \$400 for 158 acres.

Daddy Wisdom worked his farm with Pink. The Wisdoms and Pink stayed in a tent until they built a house from cedars growing on the farm. They had no tools except an ax and perhaps a saw.

The Scouts first came to Daddy Wisdom to ask permission to cross his farm to get to the Campbell place. There the Scouts had been welcome to camp and it had a lake to swim in. In 1920 the Scouts had plans to buy the



Campbell place and make a permanent camp until an article in the *Dallas Morning News* told the story. Shortly thereafter, the Scouts were barred from using the place.

The plans interested the farmers in the area, especially Pink. He passed along to Daddy Wisdom the story about the Scouts and their policy of helping other people at all times. Pink knew more about Scouting than Daddy because Pink would visit the camps and camp-fires while Daddy stayed at home.

Daddy began allowing the Scouts to camp on his land. By this time Mrs. Wisdom had passed on, so Pink and Daddy had no heirs. Daddy had planned to deed his land to the Wheatland Cemetery but slowly he began to change his mind.

In 1920, he offered to deed his property to Circle Ten Council. They did not accept his offer at first as the

plan had to be discussed at the local and region offices.

In May 1922, Circle Ten accepted the offer from Daddy and Pink. They deeded part of the land immediately and then gave a deed of trust that would become effective on the death of the last of Pink or Daddy to die.

There were conditions to the deeds. The council had to agree to build a dam that would make a 15 acre lake and Daddy would be allowed to sell groceries to the Scouts and men who came to camp. It also has language that if the Scouts disbanded or did not use the property for camping for 12 consecutive months, it would revert to the City of Dallas for a park. The deeds were signed on May 28, 1922. It is rumored the Wisdom relatives were not happy with the gift.

Plans for the dam were made and for a log cabin for each of the 29 Scout troops in Dallas. A civic club donated \$12,000 to have the dam built.

Articles about the gift ran in the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Dallas Journal*, and the *Dallas Dispatch*.

This information has been taken in part from *Daddy Wisdom* by George M Haas.

SEVENTY, INC.

Seventy, Inc. is the troop's 501 c(3) tax exempt organization. It supports the operation of the troop in various ways including support with camper scholarships, adult leader training, and equipment for the troop.

If you would like more information about Seventy, Inc. or prefer to make a donation, please contact Bob Pospick, Dan Herndon, or Charles Holmes.

Scoutmaster's Minute

By: Bob Pospick

Leadership is an interesting concept. The shelves at the Barnes & Noble are filled, row after row, with books ready to tell us about the great leaders of yesterday and of course the rising stars of today. And, most even offer to unlock the secret to becoming a great leader yourself. Interesting. Plop down \$24.95 plus tax and then viola, you've been bestowed with *leadership*. Hummmmm?

I decided to take the challenge to

find out more about this popular concept. Especially since most people usually include the word *leadership* in sentences mentioning *Scouting* or *Eagle Scout*.

First stop, *Websters*. They have four entries: "1: the office or position of a leader; 2: capacity to lead; and 3: the act or an instance of leading. " Now that wasn't very helpful; probably won't use them as an example of leadership!

Next, I tried Google. *Leadership* yielded 171 million entries, which is a bit more than I planned to peruse. Narrowing it down a bit, "Scouting Leadership" yielded 1,300,000 entries. At least were trending in the right direction. From there I did a bit of random searching and I came across some worthy descriptions.

"Leadership is not a place, it's not a position, and it's not a secret code that can't be deciphered by ordinary people. Leadership is an observable set of skills and abilities. Of course some people are better at it than others. " (Kouzes 2002) Quite technical, but thought provoking.

The US military refers to leadership in rather direct terms: Getting the mission accomplished while keeping the group together.

"Managers are people who do things right, while leaders are people who do the right thing. - Warren Bennis, Ph.D. Nice turn on words.

And finally, one website proclaimed that "Leaders aren't born, they're developed". Well, perhaps whoever wrote that understood what Scouting was about.

Scouting, and in particular the patrol method, helps each Scout in Troop 70 develop those "skills and abilities" that really define *Leadership*.

Each time a Scout comes to a meeting on time and in uniform, they are setting the example ... and practicing an important facet of *Leadership*.

Each time a Patrol Leader calls his patrol to remind them of a meeting or campout, he is practicing another important aspect of *Leadership* - effective communications.

Each time a Staff member teaches a outdoor skill to a new Scout, his is practicing *Leadership* by coaching, mentoring and giving feedback to that new Scout.

Each and every time a Scout dons their uniform, they have the opportunity to learn, practice and refine their Leadership skills. These skills, learned and practiced now, will last a lifetime.

Yours in Scouting,

Bob

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By: Charles Holmes

In light of the events early this week, I have spent far too much time listening to the coverage on TV. So I went back to my usual radio shows.

There was a call from one mother that really hit home. She had a point of view on how the tragic events might have been avoided.

This was not a Monday morning quarterback thing. It was up front, responsible thought.

Today's society has migrated from the 40's, 50's, and early 60's of letting the kids free play, unstructured, under-scheduled to where our kids are now. They are over scheduled, over pressured, over protected, and over programmed.

Yes they have many more opportunities than 30 - 40 years ago, but at what cost?

Kids are wrapped in soft cotton and bubble wrap to protect them from failure. Personal responsibility only goes so far and then they are over protected. No, don't go out it is too cold; I will talk to the coach for you so you can play; that test was too hard, we will get you a tutor; your due at roller hockey and then choir; and then... or I will write you a note for being late to school 'cause your too tired..

So much to do and so little time to do it. Parents, it is our fault.

Our tendency is to protect our kids so their feelings don't get hurt. They don't know how to fail, deal with it, and pick themselves up and go on.

How did we learn how to deal with failure or rejection, or mean spirited peers? We all fail, at least I

did. You know what? I bet I fail again and will just deal with it.

If we continue to be over protective of our kids, then when we can't protect them, how will they deal rejection, failure, problems, or real success?

Every Scout that has failed a Cooking MB meal has learned from it. Every Scout who goes on a wet, cold campout, has learned from it. Every Scout who has a patrol leader who is not doing their job and messes the patrol up, has learned from it.

Scouting is a great proving ground for each Scout's future. By failing, by having the feelings bruised, by going to camp and getting wet and cold and even perhaps getting sick, learns from it.

They learn how to deal with adversity, gather their thoughts and skills and go on. They learn that hurt feelings are a part of life and they have to learn how to deal with it now or how will they every be able to deal with it in the workplace or at college?

They learn their perseverance has it rewards as they advance along the Scouting trail. Their patience and plotting along towards a goal has it greatest reward. If it were a sprint, few Eagle Scout awards would ever be presented.

If only one young man at Virginia Tech could have had a meaningful Scouting experience. If only he had learned how to deal with adversity, rejection and how being different from others is not all bad.

Please support you Scouts but let them have the opportunity to fail, to have the opportunity to learn how to recover from disappointments and get up and go on, by themselves.

It is important, it is their future and ours.