



# Troop 81 E-Mail News

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 39

## Troop Meeting December 6<sup>th</sup>

1. *Viking Patrol is preparing this mtg and should arrive early and stay late.*
2. *Activities: Patrol Skit Competition. See →*
3. *Full Class A uniform, gentlemen.*



### **REMINDER TO** **QMs:**

All QuarterMasters are to meet at 6 pm THIS Thursday to tidy up the equipment for the campout.

If you cannot make this mtg, you must find an alternate to fulfill your requirements. Thanks!



## **RELEASE YOUR INNER THESPIAN!**

THIS Thurs Dec 6<sup>th</sup> we are having a Patrol Skit Competition. If you miss those times when you could be sillier than usual, this night is for you. And, you'll need those acting skills for our simulated disaster coming up the following week. (see note below)

Come support your fellow Thespians...brush up on your acting er 'skills'?...bring some silly ideas...and even sillier props. But who will have the most fun: the audience or the actors? HmMMMM.

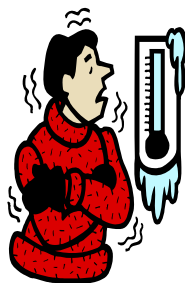
[Members of Naperville's Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) were unable to meet this week...so our simulated disaster training will not be until the following week (Dec 13<sup>th</sup>). In fact, our next 4 or 5 meetings will be a bit "fluid" – see the calendar next page...but keep in mind that from week to week, activities might change. Thanks!]



## **DECEMBER Winter Wilderness Survival Campout**

**Come prepared!**

See last page of this newsletter for our 2<sup>nd</sup> installment on cold weather scouting.





## CALENDAR

Dec 6: Troop Mtg.  
(Viking) Tra-la-laaaa.

**POSTPONED A WEEK:**  
Dec 13: Troop Mtg.  
(Wolverine) Emergency  
Response Simulation!  
Come be a victim!

Dec 20: Troop Mtg. +  
Holiday Party! →

Dec 27: NO mtg.

**NEW** Jan 3: Troop  
Mtg. + Cold Weather  
Demo

**NEW** Jan 10: Troop Mtg.  
+ SPL Election + Talk  
about Troop Values with  
Scouts & Parents

**NEW** Jan 17: Troop Mtg.  
+ Patrol Elections +  
Klondike Sled Prep

**NEW** Jan 24: Troop Mtg.  
+ further Klondike Prep

**TENTATIVE** Jan 20/27:  
Winter Court of Honor

**TROOP 81**  
**BOY SCOUTS**  
River Glen Church  
Naperville, IL

[WWW.TROOP81.ORG](http://WWW.TROOP81.ORG)



## TROOP EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### THIS PAST WEEK'S Troop Meeting Announcements

- We had visitors from Cub Scout Pack 125. Thank you for welcoming them.
- Scouts rotated through 3 groups with CERT personnel, learning various first aid and emergency preparedness requirements.
- Parents met separately to review their own home/car/office emergency preparedness. (See summary notes below.)

All previous announcements are in archived E-Mail Newsletters:

<http://www.troop81.org/information.htm>



Nothing says **Happy Holidays** better than  
a *PARTY!*

Come join us Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
for our Annual Troop Holiday Party.

- Scouts receive a special, useful gift from the Troop.
- Scouts can participate in a "White Elephant" gift exchange within their Patrols.
- Mrs. Sherri Nagy and her merry band of Elves will be serving cookies and baked goods. If you can help (purchase, bake, bring, or serve), please contact her at [ceg@wideopenwest.com](mailto:ceg@wideopenwest.com)

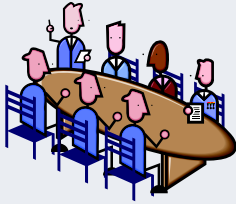


### FUTURE Troop Campouts

- **December 7-9:** Winter Wilderness Survival campout, Rainbow Council. Rainbow Council Scout Reservation is a 755 acre preserve, located in Grundy County, approximately seven miles southeast of Morris, IL. Scouts may use activities from this campout toward Merit Badge requirements.
- **January 25-26:** Klondike overnighiter – only 1 night of camping.
- **February 29-March 2:** Skiing & Snow Sports; cabin camping.
- **March:** Caving in Iowa... **April:** Horseback riding & backpacking combo... **May:** Indianapolis Time Trials... **June:** Owasippe Service Project.
- **Summer Camp – June 28-July 5**



**BOARDS OF  
REVIEW  
DEADLINE**



**ALL Rank Advancements must be entered into those Big Blue Books by Dec 20<sup>th</sup>**  
(in order for Scouts to receive ranks at the January Court of Honor).

**Scouts:** contact Mrs. Ensinger to schedule your Board. But who wants to have a Board on the night of our Troop Holiday party?! **Plan ahead!** Your parent(s) will not be arranging your Board for you – this is the Scout's own responsibility!

**Parents:** Please contact Julie Ensinger if you can help with Boards: 630-637-1271. No experience necessary...and you'll learn a great deal. As noted above, please do not contact Julie directly to arrange your son's BoR – this is HIS responsibility!



**Assistant Scoutmasters:** Ensure all entries are current in your **Patrol Blue Books** – these will be picked up by Chris Dubbins on Thursday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.

**NEXT COURT OF HONOR**



Our next Troop Court of Honor will be held either January 20 or 27, 2008.

Full details coming soon.

Contact Mrs. Sherri Nagy if you can help. Many hands will make much lighter work!

**DID YOU MISS LAST WEEK'S  
MEETING?!**



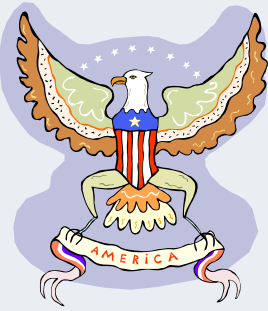
**Quick:** How many 1<sup>st</sup> responders does DuPage County have? (What is a 1<sup>st</sup> responder anyway?!) How many square miles are there in DuPage County? What are the three types of disasters you should prepare your family for? What percentage of all Chicago-land rail traffic travels through DuPage County and why should I be concerned about this? What should you keep in an emergency supply kit? How many supply kits do you need? What is the local FM radio station you would turn to in an emergency? How many minutes does it take to make a fire in the home life-threatening? How many minutes until the burning home is a total loss? Do you REALLY have flood insurance?! How many inches of standing water will float a vehicle? How many inches of moving water will sweep you off your feet? What does CERT stand for, and who are they? What is the number you could call to obtain your own FREE copy of "Are YOU Ready?" a FEMA booklet with answers to most of these questions?

If you missed last week's Parent Meeting, you missed a truly useful presentation. I can't stress enough how UNprepared we all are for life's disasters! Here and on the next page are the answers to these questions. I wish you were there with me: thank you, Troop 81 Scouts for organizing this important presentation. I learned A TON.

- There are 5000 1<sup>st</sup> responders within DuPage County, a county of 334 square miles. First responders include fire, police, and ambulance personnel: think 9-1-1. With a population of nearly 1 million, if a widespread disaster hit us locally, YOU are your best chance of responding to the troubles at hand! How prepared are you?



Continued...next page...



## EAGLE'S CORNER

Troop 81 has one more Eagle Scout to honor!

You are invited to attend the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony for Russ M. (Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm, River Glen Church). Reception to follow.

(RSVP details were emailed/mailed to you separately by Mr. M.)



- There are 3 types of disasters YOU need to prepare for: natural (tornado, earthquake – yes, we are near a fault here in Illinois! – flood, etc.)...technological (electrical outages, nuclear fallout, etc.)...and terrorism (airborne contaminants, disruption to food and water supplies, etc.).
- About 70% of all US rail travel comes through Chicago. Of that, 60% travels through DuPage County. Most things transported on trains are either hazardous OR very necessary.
- In case of an emergency, you would turn your BATTERY operated radio to local FM station 90.9. (Who knew this?)



- You should have a "GO" bag assembled and easily accessible, and KNOWN to all members of your family. A large plastic Rubbermaid or similar box will do. Inside, store a 72-hour supply of water – you'll need 3 gallons per person...convenient food items (think energy bars)...and ALL important documents and items that are necessary to your family should you need to immediately EVACUATE your home! This list is personal to each family – brainstorm with your family what you would need to survive (either in your own home) or "on the road" at a remote location (think Katrina).



- A house fire will become life-threatening within 2 minutes...it will engulf the home within 5 minutes...and after 10 minutes, you might as well count it as a total loss.
- Does your family have escape routes planned from every floor in your home? You need 2 escape routes PER FLOOR.



- Does your family have flood insurance? **Oh really?!** Call your agent TODAY and ask questions: what is covered, what isn't, how much is covered, etc.
- 12 inches of standing water will float most vehicles. 6 inches of moving water will knock most people off their feet.
- Does your car also have a first aid kit? Your office? (If the elevator were out in your downtown Chicago highrise, due to a fire, could you walk down 40+ stories in your high heels, ladies?)



- CERT stands for Citizen Emergency Response Team...they are a group of volunteers committed to training others in how to prepare for emergencies...because 5000 1<sup>st</sup> responders for nearly 1 million people just isn't enough!
- You are encouraged to call **1-800-480-2520** to order your free copy of "Are YOU Ready", a FEMA publication that covers IN DETAIL how to prepare your family for all types of emergencies. Hey, keep one in your "GO" bag! After you've read it, of course....

**Thank you, again, Troop 81,  
for organizing this important presentation for us!**



**SEE LAST PAGE, BELOW, FOR PART II  
OF OUR WINTER CAMPING PREPARATION**

## COLD WEATHER SCOUTING, by MR. PRONGER: PART II of III

[Here is an excerpt from material Mr. Pronger has written for our Scout in previous years, to prepare for upcoming winter campouts].



Last week we outlined the 3 primary points to remember about cold weather activities: 1) wear a hat; 2) keep dry; and 3) wear layers. This week we focus on clothing. Here are some general ideas:

**Wear a hat.** (Did I already mention that?) There are many style “outdoor” hats available. An old fashioned knit cap will also work well. A “baseball” style cap was designed for playing baseball; it probably won’t do you much good outside in the winter. Ears should be covered. I have a true story about Bill Cody about keeping your ears covered I will relate it to you (or your Scout) out at the campout.

**Mittens** are 100% better than gloves. Stay away from “fuzzy” gloves and mittens for your scout, they may be cute, but absorb water better than a sponge. Have spares. Your scout will be active and will get wet. Have dry mittens or gloves available.

**Wool** is good for any clothing item (except maybe underwear). It has a wonderful property of maintaining insulating properties even when damp (though of course not as well as when dry).

**Pants.** Cotton pants (blue jeans) are generally a bad idea. They absorb water and hold it – and no longer keep you warm. An adult may get away with them by staying out of snow, etc., but there’s no way to do that with your scout.

**Waterproof boots.** There is a bit of preference and cost to consider here. There are usually “Ducks” (a style of rubberized boot) available at most department stores (Meijer’s, K-Mart, Target, WalMart, Sears, JC Penny, etc) and sporting goods stores (Sports Authority, etc). Though you may not want to take a 20-mile hike in a pair of “Ducks” they do a good job of keeping your feet warm and dry. Waterproofed hiking boots with good socks will also work. Just so that I have mentioned it, gym shoes and tennis shoes belong in a gym or on a tennis court (respectfully) - they don’t work well winter camping.



**Warm Coat.** Parkas are good, but we do not want to over-heat. This is where we use the idea of layering. Unless we are headed into a very cold weekend it may actually be too warm for a busy day. I will usually dress myself and scout in a sturdy late fall weight coat and then layer underneath (I described layering in detail above). Depending on the day, you may need more or less of what I described above. Again the benefit of this approach is that if you’re too warm, a layer or two can come off and go around your waist or into a day pack. This way as we are more or less active we can easily control how much clothing we have on. Hoods work well; they protect the neck well and “share” body heat from the body to the head. I will only go to a true, heavy winter coat (parka type) with very severe conditions.

**Rain Gear.** Don’t forget rain gear. For quite a while we have had as much rain at Klondike as snow so you need to be ready for either. Rain coats and pants are better than a poncho.



*Next week we’ll “wrap it up” and discuss cold-weather camping as well.*

**Part III coming next issue....**