



Troop 81 E-Mail News

May 13, 2009

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 15

Troop Meeting May 14th, 2009

*Flags will be done by
MOOSE PATROL
who should arrive
early and stay late for
set-up/take-down
duties.*

Full Class A Uniforms,
Gentlemen!



REMINDER

**ALL OWASIPPE forms
and payments are
due THIS THURSDAY
to Mrs. Fosler!!!**

A FEW WORDS FROM SCOUTMASTER MAURER



Some Patrols spend a great deal of time and effort on their cooking, and food is important to them, while other Patrols spend a great deal of time on their other activities, and food takes a back seat to these other things. Neither is better than the other – the Patrols are just different.

But I've noticed a general deterioration in the cooking skills within our Troop! So I'd like to outline a few guidelines for future campouts.

- Scouts should plan on cooking all meals (unless activities call for sack lunches) – this means preparing hot, cooked meals from 'scratch', not eating them already prepared out of a packet (donuts comes to mind) or a can.
- Scouts should get actively involved in the meal planning at troop meetings – this will guarantee there is something that you like to eat on the campout!
- Scouts should eat within their own Patrols.
- Other patrols have not accounted for you as a guest in their meal planning and they will run out of food for their own scouts if you eat their food.
- If you don't like what is being served in your patrol, see point #2, above.
- Some months ago, scouts contributed recipes to a Patrol Cookbook. Let's get these out and have another look at them. Soon, we'll be having our open fire cooking competition – this is a fun annual event, and I'm looking forward to it.



GO TAKE A HIKE! Just a reminder to those scouts working on the Hiking MB, we will meet this Thursday at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing the following injuries: Dehydration ~ blisters ~ heat stroke ~ heat exhaustion ~ sunburn ~ insect stings ~ tick bites. Contact Mrs. Draper for full info.



MTG. CALENDAR

NEW INFO IS IN RED

May 14: Troop Mtg.
(Moose!)

May 21: Troop Mtg.
Advancements!
(Scorpion) Summer
camp mtg for parents.

May 28: Court Of Honor,
River Glen Church.
(Viking)

June 4: Sports Night
+Outdoor Troop Mtg @
Brookdale School.
(Wolverine) Class "B"
uniforms begin. ~~Youth
Protection Training.~~

June 11: Troop Mtg.
Open fire cooking
competition. (Blackhawk)

June 18: Troop Mtg.
Tent assignments for
Owasippe (Eagle)

June 25: Troop Mtg.
Last mtg B-4 Owasippe.
(Moose) Advancement
night for summer camp
merit badges; FINAL
PREP!

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

WWW.TROOP81.ORG



LAST WEEK'S Troop Announcements

- **Class B T-Shirt Orders:** These were due last week. Contact Mrs. Wycklendt if you missed – she MAY be able to accommodate you....
- **Visitors:** As part of his 1st Class Requirement #11, a Scout brought a friend to our meeting – hmmm, we have so many scouts needing this requirement, I'm not sure why we don't have more visitors!?...
- **Summer Camp Registration Packets:** The deadline for ALL payments, registration and release forms is THIS THURSDAY. Contact Mrs. Lisa Fosler if you cannot make this meeting to turn it all in.
- **Health & Medication Forms:** Mrs. Nagy is collecting these. No form = no camping. So, please attend to this! ☺ You MUST have a physical to attend summer camp. See archived newsletters for full info.

All previous newsletters are archived here:

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



CAVERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Our last Troop meeting focused on the attire and etiquette needed for our caving campout. Leave no trace! **What goes into the cave comes back out of the cave!** ☺

If you missed this meeting, please see your adult mentor or a fellow scout for details. There is complete gear & etiquette information on the **last page of this newsletter**. We are not camping where we're caving...so, bring a spare pair of clothes for the ride(s). Bring a garbage bag for your caving clothes afterwards – no driver wants the mud and muck in his car on the ride back to camp!

FUTURE Troop Campout & Activity Info

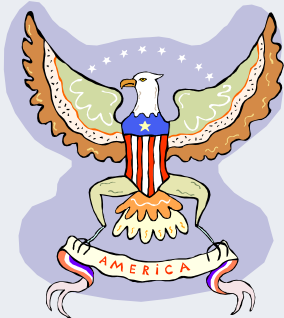
- **May 15-17 2009:** Caving Campout at Mississippi Palisades. Info here: http://www.stateparks.com/mississippi_palisades.html .
- **May 28 2009:** Court of Honor!
- **June 5-7 2009:** Service Project weekend at Owasippe. Parents welcome! This is a great opportunity to see the camp *before* attending summer camp.
- **June 27-July 4 2009:** Summer Camp at Owasippe!
- **July 9 2009:** SPL and Patrol Elections – plan ahead! After this meeting we will meet *every OTHER* week: July 23; Aug 6; Aug 20. (There are therefore NO troop meetings July 16, July 30, Aug 13.)
- **August 7-8 2009:** Troop 81's 75th Anniversary Celebrations! Come join us at Von Oven Scout Reservation, downtown Naperville.
- **September 25-26-27:** Regional Jamboree at Oshkosh, WI, experimental aircraft grounds.



KEEP CURRENT WITH YOUR TROOP COMMITTEE



Our **next Troop Committee Meeting** will be **May 31, 7 pm** at River Glen Church. All adults are welcome ... and there's always FREE FOOD served. (Also, Committee Members and ASMs: please reserve **July 12th** for our annual post-Owasippe celebration.)



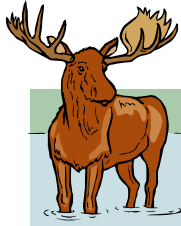
EAGLES CORNER

Mark your calendars: Colin M's Eagle Court of Honor will be held at River Glen on Saturday May 30th @ 2:00 PM.

Invitations and more information will be coming to you soon.

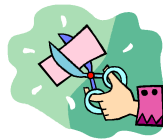
USEFUL MOOSE NEWS!

This column is specifically for new Scouts, but seasoned families might find an antler tip in here too! See archived, back issues if you missed a week.



HEADS UP! Your Moose Scouts are on the meeting set-up and take-down this week. This will also include presenting the flags. If your Scout has not received a call about this, have him contact his patrol leader for instructions.

Each meeting a different patrol is responsible for setting out the chairs, cleaning up afterwards, etc. We go in an alphabetical rotation. **Please have your Moose Scouts at the church no later than 6.30 pm to attend to this.**



Your son has now earned his Fireman's and Toten Chits. Ask your Scout under what circumstances will one of the 4 corners of his Chit be cut off by an older Scout. (This is not a "good" thing, by the way!) And, have you laminated these Chits yet?

Moose Scouts will be presented with their first awards at the May Court of Honor, May 28th. Have you reserved this date? It is important that each Scout has a parent with him to receive these awards.



Have a question you'd like answered here in this column? Contact Lisa Schweitzer, your weekly E-News editor. **NOTE her new email address!!!!**

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING **DATE NOW TBD!**

WHO: ANY adult in our Troop who is involved with our Scouts – Assistant Scoutmasters, Merit Badge Counselors, those attending Summer Camp at Owasippe, and if you attend our campouts regularly.

WHEN: **June 4th TO BE DETERMINED!**

MORE DETAILS: Coming soon.



*** * * AVIATION MERIT BADGE * * ***



Sorry, this event had to be cancelled...or more like *delayed*.

Stand by for details on a future airport trip with Mr. Swanson. If you are interested in starting this Merit Badge, please see Mrs. Schweitzer or Jackson M.

STILL...



The Owasippe dining hall does not open until Sunday dinner. We arrive on Saturday and we don't want to go hungry! So we need at least 2 shoppers to purchase the Troop's food for the Saturday night we get there, and the first Sunday breakfast and lunch.

Contact Dan Cronin or Tim Maurer if you can help with this.

DEADLINE REMINDER **May 14th** is the last day (absolutely, positively!) to turn in ALL payments, all registration forms and all release forms. Turn in to Mrs. Fosler.

Complete details are on our website AND in previous newsletters. See our archived newsletters on our website for information: www.troop81.org under "Troop Information."

Questions? Contact Mrs. Lisa Fosler. Her contact details are in your Troop Roster.

SUMMER CAMP COUNTDOWN

Can you believe it is only ("only"!) 7 more meetings until we depart for Summer Camp?

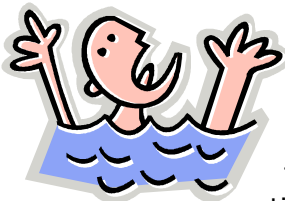
ONLY SIX weeks!

Are YOUR affairs in order?!

There was a **bright orange checklist inside your packet from Mrs. Fosler – please take a look.**

- ✓ NEW Medical forms turned in to Mrs. Nagy?
- ✓ Physicals scheduled & prescriptions filled?
- ✓ Medication card(s) filled out? See here: [Med Card](#)
- ✓ Silversides waiver signed?
- ✓ Horseback riding waiver signed? Even if your scout is not interested, sign it anyway – he might change his mind once he gets up there!
- ✓ Has your son chosen his merit badges and activities?

FINALLY: ALL of your \$\$\$ and waivers and activity forms are **due May 14** – that is THIS WEEK'S meeting. **PLEASE come prepared.** Mrs. Fosler will be on hand – **but only from 7 – 7.30 pm** - to answer your many questions and collect things.



SUMMER CAMP SWIMMING TIP:

Each year an adult from T81, who is also a member of the local Brookdale Pool, arranges a date where Scouts can practice for their swim test. Scouts pass their swim test up at Owasippe (i.e., we do not pass them ahead of time). You can prepare your son for this experience by keeping in mind that the real test is performed in a lake at Owasippe, not in a heated pool. Look for a firm date of our Brookdale Pool pre-swim test soon. It is usually held one evening, by mid-June.

MAIL AT OWASIPPE! Have you put a reminder on your calendar to write to your Scout while he's at summer camp? There is nothing sadder than the scout who has NO mail that first night away from home. Start mailing your letters and cards ~June 20th so he will get his at the first mail call. Mail *no later than* June 26th (but you can AND SHOULD mail earlier than that, of course). Details are coming at our Summer Camp Parent Night meeting, 5/21. **Mark June 20th and June 26th on your calendars now while you think of it!**





Scouts! Here's a chance to earn your Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge on June 12, 2009

At last year's picnic Mr. Joe Harrington completed 55 Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge Blue Cards! So, by request he will once again, in conjunction with the annual picnic for the disabled (**see info on next page**), be hosting a Disability Awareness Merit Badge Clinic on site **Friday only June 12th at approx 7:00 pm.** (There will NOT be sufficient time on Sat to conduct another Clinic – just Friday.) So, Scouts should come prepared by completing pre-requisites 4 and one from 5, (if you choose option 5b, the 8 hour volunteer time can be achieved by helping Fri &/or Sat) facilities and personnel will be present both Friday & Saturday to fulfill ALL of the other requirements. **Bring your blue cards properly filled out.**

Contact Mr. Harrington, joe@hbscomputers.com or 630-707-0200 for more information.



Did You Pick Up Your NEW Centennial 2008 Quality Unit Patch?

The Centennial Quality Awards program is designed to recognize units, districts, councils, areas, and regions for achieving excellence in providing a quality program to a growing youth population in America at all levels of the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 81 has once again qualified!

The Centennial Quality Award is named in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

The award began in 2007 and continues until 2010. Each year that we qualify, we will receive recognition for that year. There was a red background in 2007, there's a white background in 2008, a blue background in 2009, and 2010 will have a red, white, and blue background. Special note: If earned all four years, a special distinction will be available to recognize groups who qualify in 2010.

Troop 81 will do this!

The award patch is **displayed on the uniform's right sleeve** below the patrol emblem. Only the most recent year's patch is worn, not a string of past year patches.

So....off with the old red one, and on with the new white one, ok?! → → →



These patches were handed out at our May 7th Troop Meeting – did you remember to get one? They'll be at the front table after flags for those who missed.

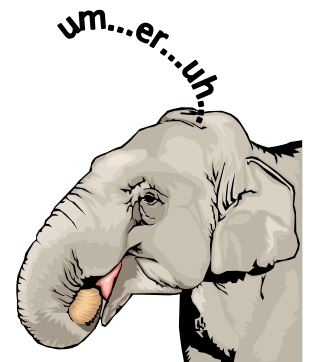
Forget something?

Forget something that you've either read or heard about? Check out the archived newsletters on our Troop website:

www.troop81.org

There's a whole section set aside called "Newsletters" going back to ...gulp... 2006 or so.

There's a whopping 109 (and counting) newsletters to keep you busy!





**Annual Three Fires Council /
Alhambra
Picnic for the disabled
Wants Troop 81
Friday June 12th &
Saturday June 13th 2009**

Troop 81 made a great showing at this event last year with many of our boys earning their Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge along with earning those required service hours for their next rank advancement.

Once again Three Fires Council and the International Order of Alhambra have teamed up to put on this spectacular event. We anticipate once again that attendance will be in excess of 1000+. That is where **Troop 81** comes in. In order to put on an event of this magnitude, we need help. In 2007 we had about 80 Boy Scouts and leader volunteers. In 2008 we had just over 200 Scouts and leaders from 7 different Councils lending a hand. Every year we have several Troops camp over night and even more helping for the day.

We desperately need help setting up Friday June 12th from 10:00am to 5:00pm. As in years past, we need help setting up 100s of chairs, moving tons of charcoal, moving pallets of bottled water, etc. Then on Saturday June 13th, 8:00am 5:00pm to we need help working games, serving food, making popcorn, passing out prizes and take down. I **guarantee** you will be touched by this experience not to mention all the fun you will have.

**Anyone from Troop 81 is welcome to camp overnight for FREE.
Free food for all on Saturday.**

**That's FREE FOOD and FREE Camping!
You can't get both of those at a Committee Meeting. ☺**

Uniform will be Class A with Troop 81 hat.

Location: Montalbano Furniture Company
3000 St. Charles Rd.
Bellwood, IL 60104



Let me know if you would like to be part of this or another one of these memorable events in the future by emailing me at joe@hbscomputers.com or calling me directly at 630-707-0200.

CAVING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- ✓ Three (3) sources of light (headlight/lamp counts as one)
- ✓ Extra batteries for light sources
- ✓ Change of clothes (will be left in cars for afterwards)
- ✓ Helmet (bike helmet will do)
- ✓ Old clothes that can get wet (and that can get dirty and possibly even thrown away)
- ✓ Clothes worn in caves must be polypro (or similar) – NO COTTON!!!!
- ✓ Water bottle (filled with drinking water)
- ✓ Empty wide-mouth plastic bottle for waste: what goes in the cave, comes out of the cave, and that includes bodily fluids)
- ✓ Carabineers
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Knee pads
- ✓ Gloves (so we leave no oil from our hands on the walls)
- ✓ Waterproof bags for anything that can't get wet
- ✓ Large garbage bag for all wet gear after you're done
- ✓ Small day pack to carry your gear in

EXTRA TIPS

- Caves are dark: make sure you have easy access to 3 sources of light.
- Caves are wet: do NOT wear jeans – you must have polypro or similar long underwear. Cotton clothes/socks can cause hypothermia because they stay wet next to your skin.
- Caves are cold: wear layers – some caves will be warmer than the outside temp and some will be the same temp as the outside. We will be wandering in and out of many of the 30+ caves there, so dress warmly.
- Caves are slippery: make sure you watch your step and GO SLOW.
- Caves can be scary: make sure you have a buddy and that you both can see people in front of you and/or behind you at all times.
- Go slow, do not panic, take a deep breath.
- Bats: leave them alone!
- Leave no trace: what goes into the cave comes out of the cave.
- If you think you are lost: STAY PUT and blow your whistle 3 times, repeatedly. STAY PUT – do not wander further in or try to find your way back out. STAY PUT!