

December 2010

TROOP 46 TIMES

“See things from the boy’s point of view.” - Lord Baden-Powell

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: WELCOME TO THE TROOP 46 TIMES!

Celebrating 100 years of scouting in America.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the very first edition of the Troop 46 Times! Our Troop’s Newsletter will serve as a means of communication within the Troop and with the rest of the Montgomery community in staying informed with the Troop’s latest activity. It will also serve as a reflection of the Troop’s events from the perspective of the scouts themselves. As Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouting program, said, “See things from the boy’s point of view.”

This first, winter edition of the Troop 46 Times comes at quite an opportune time. A release at the year’s end provides an opportunity for us to step back and really reflect on all that our Troop has been able to accomplish, both in activity and in advancement. Yet, this issue celebrating scouting in Troop 46 is timely for another, less obvious reason as well: 2010 happens to be the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The program of which we all are a part would not have been possible without some very special individuals whose stories are quite interesting.

To begin, Boy Scouts, in the essence of the program, actually began in England during the early 1900s thanks to the efforts of Lord Baden-Powell, a military hero during South Africa’s Boer War. In the first ten years of the 20th century, Baden-Powell wrote numerous manuals on outdoor skills, citizenship, and positive living, and his message spread throughout all of England’s youth. In 1909, another man by the name of W.D. Boyce was visiting England and met a young boy in the dense London fog. Lost, Boyce ended up seeking guidance from the **kind** young boy, whose advice proved to be quite **helpful**. Impressed with the boy’s **friendly** and **courteous** approach and thorough advice, Boyce offered him a tip. However, the boy refused, explaining that as a **cheerful** Boy Scout, he could not

accept money for doing a good turn. Boyce was so influenced by the young boy’s words that he decided to look into the English ideals of Scouting, bringing his learnings back to America. With the help of some collaborators like Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and James E. West, Boyce developed the program we now know as the Boy Scouts of America.

As you read through this introductory issue of the Troop 46 Times, think about the story of Baden-Powell and W.D. Boyce and reflect on how their work impacts what our Troop does on a yearly basis. How are *you* similar to the young boy from whom Boyce sought advice in London? If you’re having trouble, try rereading this letter with a **bolder** mindset. I’m confident you’ll be able to find some similarities. Enjoy the Newsletter!

Sincerely,
Rishi K.
Editor

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The Cooking Competition | Stephen B.

Every mid-November, Boy Scout Troop 46 holds its annual cooking competition in which each patrol attempts to impress a set of judges with an excellent dinner. This is by no means an ordinary campout, however. The dinners prepared on this night are the results of weeks of planning and creativity on the part of every Scout in the Troop. This is the campout where the creative genius



inside every boy is allowed to show itself. Also, for the first time in the history of the Troop, the Scouts were allowed to invite their mothers to the campout, so that they had the opportunity to see what exactly their boys do on campouts.

The campout basically runs like this: the Scouts arrive at the campsite early in the morning and spend the entire day planning the dinner. The day, however, does not completely revolve around the meal. The Scouts are also responsible for a camp gadget and presentation centered on a specific theme. At the end of the day, each patrol presents its dinner to a panel of judges (generally made up of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders,

and a Special Guest), who grade each patrol based on the food's taste, sanitary conditions, and presentation, as well as the inclusion of a useful camp gadget and skit, presented during the campfire. The winners of this competition receive the choice of having either breakfast or dinner cooked for them, by the adults, on the April Campout at Hawk Mountain. Since the prize for victory is so great, there is much motivation to do well.

This year was a very nice year for the Cooking Competition. Many patrols went above and beyond our expectations as far as food, presentation, and camp gadgets. The Delta Force's rendition of the Medieval Times was a highlight of the competition, as was their *roisserie style cooking* – a notable thing for Judge Shaan P.



“Con Artist creampuffs” were also very popular with the judges. Justin C. was very fond of the “Pat Scale” for rating food, as it was very influential in our decision making. And Pat B.... well he was just happy to be there. Shailen S., the newest SPL, was very excited about the whole judging process and really enjoyed it. And I... I was just there for the free food.

Blawenburg Church Cleanup | Raj B.

On November 20, Troop 46 went to the Blawenburg Church to help rake leaves off their fields. We helped them clean up their fields for both of our benefits. Troop 46's scouts felt proud and gained community service hours, while the Blawenburg Church didn't have to spend days cleaning up. The Blawenburg Church helps us in many ways that we sometimes take for granted. For example, they give us a place for some of our meetings when we need them.

On November 20, from 10a.m. to 2p.m., Troop 46 cleaned up the church's fields. We had so many scouts attend, that we took shifts so the Blawenburg Church's fields wouldn't get too crowded. We had all brought our own leaf rakes, and began to work diligently for an hour. The result of the hard work was great; the fields were clean, as well as some of the lawns around it! We were all pleased with the results and we feel proud that Troop 46 made it possible for the Blawenburg Church to have clean fields before the snow arrives.

Advancement Overview of 2010:

2010 was a great year for advancement in Troop 46. Here's a quick recap:

62 Scouts Advanced

7 to the rank of Eagle, 14 with two advancements, 2 with three advancements

80 Total Advancements

14 Tenderfoot, 14 Second Class, 20 First Class, 13 Star, 12 Life, 7 Eagle

293 Merit Badges

The trend keeps increasing from previous years!

2010 Rocket Rally | Akash B.

Exhilaration and excitement inundated my mind as I built my rocket. Since it was my first time building the rocket designated to scouts First Class and above, I faced difficulties during the building process, yet as I proceeded, I overcame them. After completing my rocket in the car on the way to the rally, I nervously handed my work of art over, wondering whether or not my rocket would successfully fly. While viewing the rockets of my fellow friends shoot up in the sky like bullets, I never realized when it was my turn until they called me to press the buttons that would launch my rocket. After launching my rocket, I felt relieved and proud.



I can imagine that most of the scouts can probably relate to my experience. For numerous scouts, it was their first time, and for

some scouts like me, it was their first time constructing a different rocket. I saw faces light up as they realized how high their rocket flew. All the scouts had an opportunity to launch their rocket not once, twice, but *three* times, and everybody seemed to have a pleasant time. Overall, the rocket rally was a “blast”!

The rocket rally is an annual event held by Troop 46. Scouts that participate are required to, using the packet that includes instructions and materials that they received at meetings, build a rocket that is then launched by an intricate structure. This year, it was held at Hobler Park on October 24th. The Webelos also joined in this invigorating event.

Not only did I learn how to build a rocket, but I also learned a very valuable lesson. I learned that even though my launch was not perfect and indeed not as great as others, I was still determined while building it and had taken the responsibility and initiative to it as well. I will always treasure the experience of the Rocket Rally.

The results are in! The winners of the 2010 Troop 46 Rocket Rally are . . .

WEBELOS

1st - Josh H., Pack 181 (190m)
2nd - Josh H., Pack 181 (188m)
3rd - Anthony A., Pack 850 (175m)

SCOUTS (SMALL ROCKETS):

1st - Sean K. (215m)
2nd - Chris T. (200m)
3rd - Greg P., Max U. (185m)

SCOUTS (LARGE ROCKETS):

1st - Paul N. (288m)
2nd - Chris C., Puneet P. (285m)
3rd - Nick T. (280m)

SPECIAL “MISSION CONTROL” AWARD - Mr. Thomsen (for his new launcher)

Scouts at Stonebridge | Jeremy B.

On November 11 at Stonebridge, about a dozen scouts, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Patel came to lead the Veterans Day flag ceremony. We all met down stairs in the lobby until it was time for the ceremony. We lined up right outside the door to the auditorium. Mr. Johnson led us on to the stage. Jeremy B. gave the commands to the color guard. Arjun K. posted and retired the colors. We sang the national anthem and other patriotic songs. One of the staff at Stonebridge gave us a history of Veterans Day. Soon after that one of the residents named Warren Leback told us about his experience in the Merchant Marines and being at war. He told us about his opinions about how the wars going on now are going and about when he chose to join the army. All of the veterans who live in Stonebridge were recognized and stood



up as their names were called. At this point we sang the song “God Bless America”. We did not expect that we would have to retire the colors. We had thought that he would leave them up. Jeremy, Arjun and Mr. Johnson went up to the stage to retire the colors. It all went very smoothly. People didn’t seem to notice that we had been doing it on the spot.

To me Veterans Day is about honoring the veterans who are still alive today. I think that scouts should participate in this event because the veterans have defended our country’s freedom and some of them were scouts too and it makes them feel good to see what boy scouting has become. I think that this was a very special event because we got to learn about Veterans Day from veterans themselves. I encourage other scouts to participate in this event next year.



Staying Warm While Skiing or Camping | Arjun K.

Did you know that in the Northeast (we live there) temperatures of -5°F + wind at 10 MPH can create a wind chill of -25°F ? That's enough to freeze exposed human skin in 1 minute! Not only that, but frostbite can easily happen to anyone in these sub-freezing (below 32°F) temperatures. The telltale signs of frostbite are: patches of red or white in exposed skin, such as ears, noses and fingers. If you see this on any of your friends or family, get them inside a warm area, and never apply heat (like pressing skin against a heater) or ice (this one is self-explanatory).

Some ways to stay away from these cold-related sicknesses (like frostbite, hypothermia, etc.) are:

- 1) Avoid wet gloves and snow boots (the water can freeze in the cold, causing pain/discomfort). You should leave your boots open on the floor and keep your gloves on a chair to dry. Never pile them on the floor.
- 2) Stay hydrated! Drink about an extra two liters more every day.
- 3) Stay dry! Avoid cotton clothing, because once it gets wet, it loses its insulation abilities. I would wear some wool or polyester clothing, which is better, and cheaper.
- 4) When skiing, wear a ski mask, or hat that covers most of your head, along with skiing goggles. 80% of the body heat escapes from your head (the other 20% from your feet)!
- 5) Wear several thin layers of clothing instead of two huge layers, because you can remove and put back the layers much more easily. Make the outer layers wind/water resistant (Gore-Tex is great).
- 6) Follow the MANDATORY three buddy rule (when skiing, always ski with two other people, so if one is injured, another can tend to it and the third one can go for help) at ALL TIMES.

That's all I have to tell you, and if you follow these advice bits, then you should have a good time skiing, or camping, in the winter.

Want to go Skiing with your friends?
Snowboarding? Check out the upcoming annual
Troop 46 Ski Trip!

When: Martin Luther King Weekend (Jan 14-17)
Where: Killington, Vermont

No prior experience necessary. You'll have a great time with your friends at the lodge's hot tub, game room, TV room, and more!

If you're interested, keep your ears peeled at the next couple of Troop meetings.

In Eagle news...

Scouts Mark Treichler, Tyler Blakemore, Fred Klostermeyer, and Ravi Mahadevan were recognized for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor on November 27th in the Blawenburg Church. They join the Troop's existing 123 Eagle Scouts.



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Want to be a contributor to the next issue of the Troop 46 Times? Have an idea for an article or cartoon? Contact Rishi K., or send an email to:

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Calendar of Upcoming Events:

December Hike - Dec 11

Winter Break - Dec 23 - Jan 1

Ski Trip - Jan 14 - Jan 17

Winter Campout - Jan 29 - Jan 30

Orienteering - TBD

Court of Honor - March 22