

# Troop 181 Newsletter

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### Resica Falls Trip

The November camping trip to the **Resica Falls Scout Reservation** went off well despite the very wet weekend! There was enough of a break in the rain on Saturday that we managed to fit in Hares and Hounds as well as Orienteering. We hosted two Webelos and their moms who all had a great time. Thanks to **Joe DiGiorgio** who organized this trip!



### Philadelphia Rock Gym

The December trip is an outing to the Philadelphia Rock Gym from **2-4 PM on December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Light snacks will be served at the end. Webelos are invited for this event. It will be an afternoon of fun on the rock wall! **Linda Bravacos** is organizing this trip.



### Ice Climbing at Ricketts Glen State Park

Stay tuned for details about our next camping trip. **Mike Harris** is once again organizing this very popular camping trip the weekend of **January 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**. We will be staying at the Program Shelter at Camp Lavigne. Currently there are eleven scouts and four adults who

have signed up to go and room for a few more. E-mail Mr. Harris as soon as possible to let him know if you are going.

### Spring 2009 Camping Trip

The Scouts voted to go to DC **March 20-22, 2009** as a camping trip which **Jack Warnock** is organizing. Parents have voted to stay at the [National Park Service in Greenbelt, MD](#) and make it a no cooking camping trip (we'll eat in DC). Stay tuned for details.

### Scout Recruiting

With **Jack Warnock** taking the lead, Webelos recruiting is in full swing.

**Scientist Activity Badge Night** was held on Tuesday, **November 11<sup>th</sup>** during our regular meeting at BUMC. We had a great turnout! **Thirty two** Webelo scouts attended the event and it was well received. The parent session went off well also with them getting their questions answered while their sons were busy with the activities. The most asked questions were about discipline/structure within the troop; religion and hazing. With the busy holiday season underway, there is no feedback yet about potential new scout recruits, but **Jack** is going to follow up come January.

Webelos have been invited to join us on our day outing to the Philadelphia Rock Gym. Several Webelos dens have asked to join us at regularly scheduled Troop meetings. So, don't be surprised if our ranks swell a little over the next few weeks as we are joined by Webelos considering joining Troop 181.

Scouts, earn the **BSA Recruiter Patch** by recruiting any of your friends and Webelos Scouts to **join the troop**. In fact, simply pitching Boy Scouting to a friend is a requirement for First Class rank. **A very easy way to do this is to copy the tri-fold handout about the troop and give it to your friends.** To find the tri-fold go to: [Troop 181 Brochure](#)

Parents can help too. **Please promote Troop 181 and recruit a new Boy Scout today.**



### **Congratulations!**

Special recognition goes to **Eric Dixon** for attaining the rank of **Eagle** in September.

Congratulations to:

- **Sean Miller** who earned **Bronze Palm**
- **Scott Dixon** who attained **Life Rank**
- **Ian Wilson** who attained **Star Rank**

Congratulations to the following scouts who earned various merit badges:

- **Dhananjay Bhaskar** – Personal Management
- **John Bravacos** – Aviation
- **Stephen Christner** – Aviation, Electricity, Electronics, Space Exploration
- **Joe DiGiorgio** – Aviation
- **Deri Harris** – Aviation
- **Vince Smith** – Personal fitness
- **Mike Warnock** – Personal Management
- **Ian Wilson** - Aviation



### **Eagle Court of Honor**

There is going to be an Eagle Court of Honor for **Eric Dixon** on **Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>** starting at **1:30 PM** at the church. Scouts and leaders, please arrive in Class A uniforms.



### **2010 National Jamboree Application information**

The centennial National Jamboree is scheduled to be held from **July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 4<sup>th</sup> 2010** at **Ft. A.P. Hill** in **Virginia**. The application for the 2010 National Scout Jamboree is now available at the [Chester County Council website](#). If you have already completed an application, don't forget to go back online to update it to include any new leadership positions.

[To see a promotional video and Jamboree map, visit the Jamboree Website](#)



### **Fundraising Committee News**

Four fundraising events will be held over the course of the year, and the scouts are strongly encouraged to participate in as many as they can but at least one at a minimum. Of course, the scouts are welcome to participate in all four events. To make our budget, each scout's annual contribution is **\$125**. These fundraising activities are designed to enable any scout who wishes to do so to raise his entire contribution.

The first fundraising event for this scout year is the **Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble** scheduled for **Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>** between **12 Noon and 6 PM**. There are three time slots of 2 hours each: **12-2 PM; 2-4 PM and 4-6 PM**. Thanks to all those who have signed up already! Please arrive at the site about ten minutes prior to the start of your shift. All wrapping supplies will be provided by Barnes & Noble and there will be a complimentary beverage provided by Starbucks for each volunteer. We can raise the visibility of our troop in the community and have fun at the same time. **100%** of the donations earned will go entirely to the scouts who volunteer. We look forward to making this a successful event. **Jayashree Bhaskar** is

coordinating this event.

### Scouting for Food

Thanks to all the families who contributed to the Scouting for Food program. **Mike Ryczyn**, who along with **Donna McCarty** organized this drive, reported that food collection was down by half this year as a result of the sagging economy, even as the needs are greater for the same reason. We will have another food drive in February to help replenish the food pantry at the Wayne United Methodist Church. Also, to help more immediately, the price of admission to our Holiday Party/Gift Swap meeting on Tuesday, December 16, will be one can or box of food.

On a related note, the parents agreed that we need to focus more attention on showing compassion to others in our local community who are experiencing financial and personal difficulties. With that in mind, we are going to explore if groups of our Scouts could volunteer/serve in shelters in the area on an ongoing basis. More information will follow.

### Toy Drive

Jason Robins who organized a toy drive for the underprivileged children in our area was able to collect a sackful of toys from our troop. A huge thanks to all those who contributed!

### Class B Shirts

Donna DiGiorgio is the keeper and distributor of the Class B shirts. If anyone needs a shirt, see Donna. Cost, as in the past, is \$10.

### PLC News

#### December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Class A – BUMC

- Knot Race
- Orienteering

#### December 9<sup>th</sup> – Class B – BUMC

- Square knot for admission. Please note that the “knot for admission” is being instituted as a way for the scouts to hone their knot making skills.
- Gift wrapping demo followed by Wrap Race
- Climbing Safety discussion & presentation

- Patrol craft/contest led by John Bravacos

#### December 13<sup>th</sup> – Class B – BUMC

- Day outing to the Philadelphia Rock Gym 2-4 PM. Light snacks at the end.

#### December 14<sup>th</sup> – PLC meeting at Harris' at 7:30 PM

#### December 16<sup>th</sup> – Class B -- BUMC

- Clove Hitch knot for admission
- Holiday Party and Gift Swap

#### December 23<sup>rd</sup> – No meeting

- Happy holidays! Troop meetings resume starting **January 6<sup>th</sup>, class A at BUMC**

### Next Parents' Meeting

The next parents' meeting is at **7:30pm on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at BUMC.**



### BSA's new rank requirements

Please refer to the following link for updates: [2008 Rank Requirement Changes](#)

### It's time to renew!

**Merit Badge Counselors:** It is time to verify and renew your membership with the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America requires all merit badge counselors to renew their registration annually. If you are currently registered as a MB counselor, within the last couple of weeks communication has been sent out, either by mail or email asking you to renew your membership for 2009.

If you do not respond you **WILL** be dropped from the roster of registered merit badge counselors members and will have to re-register if you want to continue.

If you **DID NOT** get an email or a letter and you think you should have, please call the Registrar at Chester County Council or your district

advancement chairman to make sure that your name is on the Merit Badge Counselor master list.

### Youth Protection Training Video

We **require** every Scout to view "A Time to Tell" once every three years as part of the Boy Scouts of America comprehensive program to prevent child sexual abuse in scouting. **Every boy in the Troop must view this DVD this year.** If a parent does not wish for their son to view "A Time to Tell," complete a Request for Absence form. Please see **Linda Bravacos** for the form as well as the list of scouts who are yet to watch the video.

### Adult Youth Protection Training – Online!

**All adults/parents who participate in troop outings and trips must take Youth Protection Training once every two years. This is a BSA requirement and protects you and our Scouts.** It is easy and quick since you can take it online. It shouldn't take you more than 30 minutes. Please go to [BSA Online Learning Center](#) and click on the Youth Protection Training tab. This will take you to the E-Learning Portal. If you have a MyScouting account, just sign in as usual. Otherwise, register for a MyScouting account so that you can access the online training. Please follow the instructions on [CCCBSA Adult Leadership Training Courses](#) on how to print your certificate after the completion of the online course and how to have it recorded.

Let **Cindy Sharo**, our training coordinator, know that you have completed the Adult Youth Protection Training.

Another great online course is the **Troop Committee Challenge** which Cindy recommends for those families whose sons joined the troop in the past two years. This, as well as other great courses that might interest you can be found at the [BSA Online Learning Center](#). They are quick and free and will help the Troop and you!

*Every Scout deserves a trained leader.*

*Please do your part to oblige him.*

### Troop Yahoo Groups Sign-Up

If you haven't already signed up for the **Yahoo Groups for Troop 181**, please do so by subscribing to the group. Send an e-mail to [paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Having trouble with sign up? Contact KS Bhaskar for help: [bhaskar@acm.org](mailto:bhaskar@acm.org). Please note that any e-mail sent to [paoli181@yahoogroups.com](mailto:paoli181@yahoogroups.com) will be forwarded to everyone who is a subscriber to the group. **IMPORTANT:** If you are **NOT** signed up to receive Yahoo Groups mail, let Linda Bravacos know immediately so that you will continue to receive e-mail. All announcements, notices, etc. are now being sent only through Yahoo Groups.

### Search Committee

A search committee consisting of **Mike Harris, Joe DiGeorgio, Mike Ryczyn, Cindy Sharo** and **Dave Miller** has been formed to find replacements for the positions of **Scoutmaster, Treasurer** as well as **Advancements Coordinator**. Those positions are currently held by **Dave Miller, Ron Bellamy** and **Kathy Warnock** respectively, who would all like to step down. The committee has met twice so far and has made progress and hope to come to a decision in January.

### Co-Scoutmaster Assignments

The following adult leaders have committed to be Co-Scoutmasters of the Month to support the troop:

**October -- Mr. Franz**  
**November -- Mr. DiGiorgio**  
**December -- Mr. Wilson**  
**January -- Mr. Ryczyn**  
**February -- Mr. Bhaskar**  
**March -- Mr. Weissman**  
**April -- Open**  
**May -- Open**  
**June -- Open**  
**July -- Open**

Please call the Co-Scoutmaster if you have a "Mr. Miller question" and he is not home. **Please remember to support our boys by attending the troop meetings to which you have been assigned (check your troop calendar for your commitment) so we always have at least "two-deep leadership" at each meeting.**



### Troop Adult Leadership

**Linda Bravacos** – Troop Committee Chair  
610-647-8951

**David Miller** - Scoutmaster  
610-213-3188

**A.B. Maynard**– Camping Committee Chair  
610-578-0493

**Vince Piotti** – Advancement Committee Chair  
610-296-9058

**Donna McCarty**- Court of Honor Comm. Chair  
610-644-0255

**Scott Wilson** – Fund Raising Comm. Chair  
610-964-8467

**Mike Dixon** – Cabin Committee Chair  
610-827-1991

**Jayashree Bhaskar** – Communications  
Comm. Chair  
610-296-7332

**Joe DiGiorgio** – Finance Committee Chair  
610-688-1126

**Mike Harris**- Quartermaster  
610-647-0808

**Cindy Sharo** – Training Coordinator  
610-293-9177

**Mike Brown** - Charter Organization  
Representative 610-688-2853

**Jack Warnock**– Recruiting Coordinator  
610-722-2673

**Vacant** - Friends of Scouting Coordinator  
610-

**Ron Bellamy**- Treasurer  
610-644-0879

**2008-2009 Calendar of Key Events**

**Please see the troop roster for the Boy Scout Youth Leadership contact information.**

**2008-2009 Calendar of Key Events**

**December 13** – Day outing to Philadelphia Rock Gym

**December 21** – Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble

**January 4** – Eagle Court of Honor

**January 16-18** – Camping – Ice Climbing

**February 1** – Scout Sunday (tentative)

**February 7** – Klondike Derby – Valley Creek

**February 20-22** – Camping – Skiing

**March 14** – First Aid Meet

**March 20-22** – Camping – DC

**April 4** – Webelos Woods – Archery Range, cookout, campfire & skits

**April 17-19** – Camping – Backpacking TBA

**May 1-3** – Philmont Crew Training Weekend

**May 15-17** – Camping – Bike trip

**May 30** – Family Outing TBA

**June 19-21** – Camping-- Fun in the Sun Cape Henlopen

**June 27-July 11** – High Adventure Trek— Philmont

**July 26-August 02** – Summer Camp – Court of Honor, family picnic at Camp Horseshoe

**Aug. 16** – PLC Annual Planning Meeting for 2009-2010