

Troop 181 Newsletter

www.paoli181.com



February Ski Trip Update

The Troop's annual ski trip is scheduled for **Sunday, February 21st**. The boys took a vote and opted to go to [Jack Frost](#). Please make your commitments by **February 16th** by responding to Mr. DiGiorgio's e-mail. For all of the details of the trip and the required permission slip, see the [Fact Sheet](#). **Mr. DiGiorgio** is planning this day trip for the Troop.



Klondike Derby

This event, which was scheduled for February 6th, was canceled due to inclement weather. Diamond Rock District is hoping to reschedule for another Saturday in the upcoming weeks. Watch for e-mail updates from **Gene Christner** who is leading this event.

March Camping Trip to Washington D.C.



Please mark your calendars for the spring camping trip to Washington, D.C. set for the weekend of March 12th-14th. We will be camping at [Greenbelt Park](#) in Maryland and hiking the Lincoln Pilgrimage Trail, which includes stops at Ford's Theater, the Boy Scout Statue, the U.S. Capital, etc. before ending at the Lincoln Memorial. This will be a no cooking camping trip. There will be skills and advancement opportunities with activities geared toward Hiking, Camping, Personal Fitness, and Citizenship merit badges. **Mr. DiGiorgio** and **Mr. Christner** need firm commitments by **February 22nd** from those who

intend to go. For further details and a consent form, see the [Fact Sheet](#).



Winter Court of Honor

The Winter Court of Honor for Troop 181 was held on Tuesday, February 2nd at BUMC. We had a great turnout with most of our families in attendance as well as the families of some of our newest Scouts! Thanks to all who brought in delicious food to share and for making this event a huge success.

The **Court of Honor** program included our Friends of Scouting (FOS) Kickoff, presentation of Merit Badges and Rank Advancement, the introduction of newly elected boy leaders, the announcement of the Patrol of the Year and the presentation of recognition ribbons for the flag standard.

The Patrol of the Year is a Troop-designed program to encourage individual Scouts and their Patrols to show their commitment to the ideals of Scouting each and every week throughout the year. Scouts earn points by participating in activities such as Troop meetings, earning merit badges, rank advancement, service hours, etc; the Patrol total will be the sum of the points earned by the individual Scouts in each Patrol plus points awarded to the Patrol as a whole. Congratulations to the 2009 Patrol of the Year Scouts: **Joseph DiGiorgio, Scott Dixon, Mike Warnock, John Bravacos, Michael Rryczyn, Jack Franz, Conner Jamison and Deri Harris.**

National Youth Leader Training Conference



NYLT is an exciting, action packed program designed to provide youth members of the Boy Scouts of America with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops. The leadership skills taught can be used in any other situation demanding leadership of "self" and "others." Training is conducted by the Council Leadership Training Committee using an outline developed and approved by the Boy Scouts of America. **Colin Weissman** will be part of the training staff for this year's NYLT.

Scouts who are First Class, Star or Life are encouraged to sign-up for this Conference which will be held at Camp Ware on the weekends of **May 7 - 9 and May 14 - 15**. Scouts **must** commit to both weekends, from 5:30 pm on Friday until 3:00 pm on Sunday, to participate. The cost is \$185 before March 31st and \$210 thereafter. The Troop will reimburse \$93 to the family of any participating Scout. [Register](#) online now as registration will close when the Conference is full.

Scouts must ask ask Mr. Wilson for permission to attend NYLT before registering.



Beach Jam

In May our camping trip will be to [Beach Jam](#), a scouting event held in Wildwood, NJ at Morey's Pier over the weekend of May 21 - 23. Scouts will camp on the beach and have the opportunity to work on two merit badges, Oceanography and Aviation. An optional dolphin watching trip is available, for an extra fee. In addition, Scouts will have access to the amusements on Morey's Pier. This should be a fun-filled weekend.

The Troop is paying a portion of the registration for this trip. The cost to each participant is \$34. Dolphin watching is \$17 additional. Beach Jam

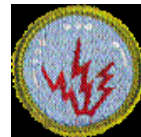
is held rain or shine and there are no refunds. If you commit to go, you commit to pay.

Russ Levin is coordinating this trip for the Troop. If you are planning to go, Dr. Levin must know now what merit badges you wish to take and whether you plan to go dolphin watching. Our information is that merit badges and the dolphin watching will fill quickly so we are registering now to secure space.



High Adventure 2010 Update

The Scout-led High Adventure Committee has voted to travel the length of the C&O Canal, from Cumberland, WV into Washington, D.C. The crew will bike and canoe the canal from July 17 - 25. The cost is yet to be determined; much planning remains to be done. Any Scout who will be 14 years old by next summer and who will hold a rank of at least First Class can participate. **Mr. Harris** is overseeing this trip. Look for announcements asking for firm commitments from the scouts who intend to go.



Science Camp

Registration is open for Chester County Council's Science Camp to be held from **June 27th to July 3rd** at Camp Ware. This is a fun and educational camp where the boys can earn science related merit badges that may be difficult to otherwise complete. The camp is open to boys who have been active with a Boy Scout Troop for the past year, have already attended a week of summer camp, and have attained the rank of Second Class. This year, **Mr. Bhaskar** will be teaching the Computer merit badge.

Don't wait to sign up as camp closes once full! Registration for Science Camp is done by individual families, and not by the Troop. For more information about Science Camp, including a list of all the merit badges offered and registration information, visit [Science Merit Badge Camp and Radio Camp for Boy Scouts](#).



Summer Camp

With 20+ inches of snow on the ground, it may be hard to think about

summer at Camp Horseshoe, but it is just around the corner and now is the time to sign up for a week of summer camp! The Troop will be at Roberts Campground from **July 4th – 11th**. The cost of summer camp is \$315, if paid by May 4th, and \$350 if paid later. Summer camp is a great opportunity for our scouts to work on scout skills and advancement, earn merit badges and just have some fun while getting to know each other and the adult leaders better. Let **Jane Harris** know if you plan to attend summer camp. A non-refundable deposit of \$35 is due to Mrs. Harris by **March 23rd**.

Medical forms are due to Mrs. Harris by June 15th. Every scout must have a [medical form](#) signed by a doctor within the last year. If you are taking your son to have a physical in the near future, you may want to take this form with you as Part B needs the doctor's signature.

Adult leaders are needed for summer camp. We must have 2-deep leadership at all times and this means having 3 leaders on-site in case someone must leave – leaders are called away from camp for a variety of reasons, so we must plan for this contingency. Please let Mrs. Harris know if you can be an adult volunteer. Adult volunteers for one-night are gladly accepted, but we are thrilled to have adults who can stay over for more than one night!

The Troop believes that no scout should be excluded from summer camp because of financial considerations. We have a fund that can help with this issue. If you require further details, please contact Scott Wilson, Linda Bravacos or Joe DiGiorgio.

Friends of Scouting

Please be generous in supporting Chester County Council; Council supports all of our Scouts directly and indirectly through program and training. Return your FOS Pledge Cards with your donation or pledge as soon as possible to **John Bravacos**, our FOS chair.

Scout Recruiting

We are very happy to announce that **Mike Ryczyn** had a successful year as the Recruiting Coordinator! In all, there are seven

scouts who are committed to joining our troop and about six more still deciding. A huge thanks to Mike for all his efforts!

We continue to be joined at Troop meetings on a regular basis by Webelos and their parents who are visiting as they make up their minds on which Troop to cross-over into. Please continue to make our visitors feel welcome! Cross-over events generally take place between February and April each year so we will have new Scouts in our Troop shortly!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following Patrol Leaders who were recently elected: **Joseph DiGiorgio** - Border Patrol; **Andrew Weissman** – The Special Patrol; **A.B. Maynard** – Foxhound Patrol; **Ian Wilson** – Gobble Stompers Patrol.

Also, Colin Weissman and John Bravacos who ran for the positions of Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader as a team in the summer are going to reverse their roles mid-term. Congratulations to **Colin Weissman**, the new **SPL** and **John Bravacos**, the new **ASPL**.

Congratulations to the following Scouts who have advanced in rank between January 13th 2010 and Feb 6th 2010:

Troy Gartner – Scout
Ben Levin – Life
Jason Linderman - 2nd Class
Michael VanMeter – Scout
Conner Jamison - 2nd Class

Congratulations to the following Scouts who have earned merit badges between January 13th 2010 and February 6th 2010:

Joseph DiGiorgio – Camping
Andrew Sharo – Family Life

Congratulations to **Mike Harris** who has been awarded the Extraordinary Service Award by Council for his service to Troop 181! We have been fortunate to have Mr. Harris help the Troop keep track of and maintain its equipment,

oversee many camping trips, and generally provide words of correction and encouragement as needed.



Fundraising Committee News

The Fundraising Committee, co-chaired by **Sue Morris** and **Cassie Jamison**, has outlined a program for 2010. Scouts will have an opportunity to earn money to put toward Scout related expenses this year by participating in a car wash, the Paoli Hospital evacuation exercise, and the Barnes & Noble gift wrapping. All of these have been successful fundraisers in the past. Scouts can choose to participate in as many fund raisers as they wish.

In addition, the Troop will sponsor one sales type fund raising activity. The Troop will choose one from the following – a popcorn weekend sale blitz, a Joe Corbi pizza sale, a battery sale, or a seed packet sale. A poll of the Troop will be posted soon – watch your e-mail for more information.

The Fundraising Committee has also arranged for our participation in the eScripts program with Genuardi's. To participate in the eScripts program or for additional information about any fundraising activity, contact either fundraising co-chair.



January Church Service at BUMC

Troop 181 had the opportunity to assist BUMC with their two morning church services on Sunday, January 17, 2010. We received great feed back from the church community. They deeply appreciated the efforts of our Scouts who they said were well behaved and well spoken.

Scout Sunday

The annual Scout Sunday service will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 14th at BUMC**. All Scouts and their families are

welcome to attend this service. We will need several Scouts to help with readings.

The PLC has voted to make attendance mandatory for all Scouts First Class and above. Scouts should plan to arrive at the Church at **10:00 AM in Class A uniform**. The service is over at about 11:30 AM.

Finance Committee News

Dues are past due! Invoices for \$193 have been e-mailed to all Scout families. If your payment has not been received, you have been sent two follow-up reminder e-mails. Please help out and pay your invoice now so that we do not have to do any further follow-up! Remember, we are all volunteers and it is no fun to chase the dues! If you are having financial difficulty, please be proactive and ask for a payment schedule or assistance. Financial assistance is always available to help families meet Troop expenses, camping costs and other costs associated with Scouting. For example, no Scout should be kept from high adventure because of an inability to meet the expense. Cases are considered on an individual basis. If you **need financial assistance**, please speak with Scott Wilson, Joe DiGiorgio or Linda Bravacos. Arrangements for a payment plan can be made by contacting the same individuals.

Junior Leadership Training Refresher

Troop 181 will be providing a new session of Troop Junior Leader Training on **Saturday, March 6th** at BUMC beginning at 1:00 PM in the Library. Plans are to finish by 6:00 PM so that the scouts can go home for dinner. Snacks will be provided! First Class, Star and Life Scouts are required to attend even if you have attended before. Please wear **Class B** uniforms.

In addition to the standard JLT topics, we will discuss a strategy for managing the new scouts that will be joining the troop during February and March and each PL will develop a set of goals for each Patrol and for the Troop. For those who have attended before, please bring your JLT notebooks with an updated troop roster and a copy of the February Troop Newsletter.

Counselor in Training at Horseshoe

Looking for a way to get more out of Scouting? What about serving as a Counselor in Training this summer at Horseshoe? Council is looking for Scouts, ages 14-15, to take advantage of this leadership opportunity. For roughly four weeks, CITs rotate through four different department areas and in each area they help run the daily operations. Duties might include helping a counselor teach merit badges, prepping for merit badges, and other work around the department area. For more information, click [here](#), and then choose the button on the right "2010 Summer Staff Click Here" From the next menu, choose the Parent's Information Sheet. Still have questions? Camp Director John Lukowski can help: 610-917-9313



Class B Shirts

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

Roster and Calendar Updates

The most up-to-date Roster can be found in the Files section of our YahooGroups website. The most up-to-date Calendar can be found on the Troop website.

PLC News

February 2nd – Class A – BUMC

-Court of Honor

February 9th – Class B – BUMC

-Identify the 5 first-aid hurry cases for admission

-Sheep Bend/Sheet's Shank knots

-Merit badge organization demo by Dhananjay

-Catapult building

February 16th – Class B – BUMC

-Identify 3 degrees of burns for admission

-Safe ski demo



-Knot relay

-First Aid

-Game Marco Polo

February 23rd – No Meeting

February 27th –PLC Meeting – BUMC

Next Parents' Meeting

The next parents' meeting is at **7:00 pm on Sunday, March 7th at BUMC.**

Troop Website

Need information about the Troop between parents' meetings and Newsletters? Check the Troop website: paoli181.com Our website is kept updated with Scout Leadership positions and other important news and information.



BSA's new rank requirements

A new Scout handbook has been issued for 2010. All Scouts with earlier handbooks have been given an envelope containing a handout of the new rank requirements, plus two stickers to attach to their handbooks. The envelope should be kept by the Scout with his handbook. When a boy becomes an Eagle, he will be required to have fulfilled the new rank requirements for each rank he achieved in 2010 and going forward. Any boy who already held Life before 2010 does not need to worry about the new rank requirements for himself but he does have to be aware of the new requirements so that he can help younger scouts advance. The new rank requirements can be found in a Word document posted at the YahooGroups website, [click here](#).

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 in 30 minutes. 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. If you are a registered leader and need your BSA number, e-mail the request to Counsel at scouting@cccbsa.org and the number will be e-mailed back to you promptly.

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

The beauty of Yahoo Groups is that all email sent through Yahoo Groups will be forwarded to you directly at the email you have registered. If you are having trouble with this feature, please contact KS Bhaskar for help at bhaskar@acm.org.

If you haven't already signed up for the **Yahoo Groups for Troop 181**, please do so. Send an e-mail to paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Having trouble with sign up? Contact KS Bhaskar at bhaskar@acm.org.

Remember that any e-mail sent to paoli181@yahoogroups.com will be forwarded to everyone who is a subscriber to the group.

IMPORTANT: You must be signed up to receive Yahoo Groups e-mail. If you are not signed up,

you will not receive Troop announcements, notices and other important information about the Troop. All of these are now being sent only through Yahoo Groups.



Troop Adult Leadership

Linda Bravacos – Troop Committee Chair
610-647-8951, 610-316-7902 cell

Scott Wilson - Scoutmaster

610-964-8467

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

Susan Morris, Cassie Jamison – Fund Raising Comm. Co-Chairs
Susan 610-889-7497; Cassie 610-725-0628

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

Mike Ryczyn– Recruiting Coordinator
610-240-7769

John Bravacos- Friends of Scouting Chair
610-647-8951

Donna DiGiorgio- Treasurer
610-688-1126

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

2009-2010 Calendar of Key Events

February 14 – Scout Sunday - BUMC

February 21 – Ski trip, day trip – Jack Frost

March 12-14 – DC camping trip - Greenbelt National Park

April 30-May 2 – UMC Camping and Service Weekend – UMC Poconos campsite

April 23-25 – OA Ordeal Weekend - Horseshoe

May 7-9 – NYLT Weekend #1 - Ware

May 14-16 – NYLT Weekend #2 - Ware

May 21-23 – Beach Jam – Wildwood

June 4-6 – OA Ordeal Weekend - Horseshoe

June 12 – Family Outing (location TBD)

June 12-13 – Jamboree Shakedown (location TBD)

June 27-July 4 – Science Camp - Ware

July 4 – 11 - Summer Camp – Roberts at Horseshoe

July 17 – 25 – High Adventure – C&O Canal

July 25 – August 4 – Jamboree – Fort Hill, VA