

The Troop Scoop



RECHARTERING

First Presbyterian Church established Troop 147 in 1960 making this our 49th year with the Boy Scouts of America. Be sure you're on the new charter by completing your paperwork by January 19th. All the forms you need can be found on the troop website:

www.altruistfa.com/troop147

Checks for the troop dues, BSA registration, Boys Life magazine, and the OA should be made out to "Troop 147". If you have questions please contact our Membership Chair or the Committee Chair.

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



OA News.....

The annual OA Winter Banquet is planned for Saturday, January 17th at the Masonic Temple in Grand Rapids. The cost is \$10 / person or \$30 for a family. Our Committee Chairman is going - so call if you need a ride. Also you are asked to pay your membership dues (\$8) before the Winter Banquet. After the banquet date you'll be charged a late fee.

Remember Chapter 4 meets on the second Thursday of each month at Central Wesleyan Church in Holland. It's convenient for us so let's have some representatives there at 7 PM to learn how we can serve.

POLAR BEAR 2009

We have a Polar Bear outing scheduled for January 31st - February 1st. This winter camping event will be held at Gerber Scout Reservation. It is another Four Season opportunity so, if you're aiming for the Four Season Award or if you're simply up for the challenge of winter camping plan to register for this outing by January 12th. Contact the Scoutmaster with your questions.

KLONDIKE DERBY

Troop 147 is now putting together sled teams for the District Klondike Derby planned for February 7th at Silver Creek County Park in Hamilton. This event brings scouts from area troops together in the spirit of fun and fellowship. Sled teams are challenged to solve scouting skill problems that include things like fire building, first aid, and orienteering. It's great fun. Registration closes on January 19th.



Scout Sunday

Troop 147 will celebrate Scout Sunday with the congregation of First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 8th. Scouts should arrive by 10:30 AM in Class A uniform. Families are invited to join us in worship at 11 AM.



SOMETHING SILLY

Our Scoutmaster was so sick he had to find a volunteer to take over for him on the weekend outing. The ASM called everyone together and assigned different duties to each scout.

Andrew was responsible for the food supplies, Danny would be the cook this trip, Poptart was responsible for their maps and making up a time schedule, Raymond was to decide on their events, and to fit them into Poptart's schedule and the ASM would organize and test all their equipment before setting out.

They arrived at Big Moose Mountain and everyone was excited. They arrived right on schedule and were getting ready for their first event - hiking up the mountain. But before they set off, they wanted to get something to eat. So the ASM asked Raymond if he would prepare the meal and, of course, Raymond said he would. About 10 minutes later he came back and told the leader, "I can't make the supper. I can't light a fire with the matches you brought." The leader replied, "I don't get it! Those matches should be perfectly fine. I tested them all just before we left."



MARENCO CAVE

The Marengo Cave outing was one of the most exciting scout outings I have been on! We went through The Masher (accurately named; we had to belly crawl), and a large, dark, underground stream passage, where we got to do everything from experience total darkness to get every bit as wet as we wanted to (and then get even wetter!). We also toured the commercialized but magnificent Crystal Caverns. Throughout the time in the caves, we spotted multiple species of bats. Overall, I thought this trip was awesome!

HIGH ADVENTURE

We're planning a white-water rafting trip for scouts that are 13 or completed 8th grade. The troop plans to use ACE, a very experienced outfitter in West Virginia. It's a long drive, but based on our troop's last visit 4 years ago - it's well worth it. The total cost is estimated to be about \$350. You need to make a \$50 deposit by February 1st to indicate your interest.



Watch for news about our upcoming trip to Crystal Mountain Feb 14-15!

MERRILL DINING HALL

On Christmas Eve, the Merrill Dining Hall at Camp Gerber collapsed under the weight of heavy snow and rain. Three walls blew out in a matter of seconds. Only the kitchen remains standing. Council has been working to retrieve the many historical artifacts that were in the building. The moose and elk have been found, but both are somewhat damaged. Many of the tables have been salvaged but, we haven't any info on our Troop 147 table. Our Council Executive pointed out that we were really blessed that no one was inside the building at the time. He also said that with camp exceeding the building's capacity week after week, plans are now underway to build an even larger dining hall by the summer. Gifts to assist the Council in this effort are welcome. Please call 616- 785-2662 or send a tax deductible contribution to Gerald R Ford Council, Boy Scouts of America, 3213 Walker Avenue NW, Walker 48544

