

Troop 1333 Committee Meeting Minutes – Sunday, February 17, 2008

Present: *Sandy Bartlett, Chuck Blair, Chris Brisack, Tom Burgett, Terri Byrne, Tim Christopher, Kimberly Derry-Thompson, Tammy DeMaranville, Kathy Farree, Lisa Gerdes, David Gibson, Chris Lambert, John Landry, Kim Medina, Roby Price, Valerie Price, Pauline Ramsey, Mindy Renfro, Michele Roddy, Patrick Roddy, Gilbert Santellan, Suzi Santellan, Patrick Smith, Karen Swanee, Wendy Valley, Sandy Y'Barbo and Mike Zarella*

**A note from the troop secretary** - Welcome new parents! Please accept my apologies for any misspelled names. Please send an e-mail to [dave-terri@earthlink.net](mailto:dave-terri@earthlink.net) with any name corrections and I will be happy to make the changes.

*Mike Zarella* asked *David Gibson* to open the meeting in prayer at 4 pm.

**North Hampton Garage Sale (Fundraiser)** – The troop has been invited by the North Hampton homeowners association to coordinate their annual subdivision garage sale again at Klein Oak High School on **Saturday, April 12**. Rain date is Saturday, April 19. *Karen Swanee* is the North Hampton liaison. The troop provides concessions and administration (including booth rentals, advertisement, set up, clean up, traffic control, security, and portable restrooms). Shopping is open to the public but only North Hampton residents and Troop 1333 families may rent booth spaces at \$10 per parking space with a \$20 minimum. A Scout must work a shift in order to share those profits.

The troop will also coordinate a combined booth to raise money over and above the administration and concessions. Parents donate items to sell at the troop booth and then work a shift to benefit their Scouts' individual accounts.

Bring pre-priced donations on the day of the garage sale. Contact Terri Byrne at [dave-terri@earthlink.org](mailto:dave-terri@earthlink.org) if you need advice on item pricing.

An individual Scout family may coordinate a booth alone if the family has enough items to sell or has several large-ticket items they wish to benefit their individual Scout. The \$20 booth fee will benefit all of the Scouts who participate in the event.

[Parent volunteers are needed to help with concessions, donations to and help in the troop booth.](#)

**Membership** – *David Gibson* reported that membership paperwork is in order and that he expects to be getting a troop check to submit to district when he turns in the paperwork.

**Haberdashery** – *David Gibson*, who had to leave the meeting early, left the troop t-shirt inventory in tubs in the Girl Scout hut with a request that they be moved to the Scout Hut at the end of the meeting. **The cost of troop t-shirts is \$10 payable to Troop 1333.** [David is looking for a volunteer to take the haberdashery responsibilities](#) in order for him to concentrate on other troop opportunities. The volunteer would be responsible for ordering t-shirts from Action Wear Plus, for maintaining stock of red shoulder loops, troop numeral patches, neckerchiefs and neckerchief patches which are sewn onto the neckerchiefs. *David* has a contact at a dry cleaner located at Louetta and Champion Forest; however, it would be beneficial and more cost-effective if someone in the troop were able to sew the patches onto the neckerchiefs.

Several parents inquired about the availability of used troop uniforms. The haberdashery would be ideal for coordinating gently used uniforms for rapidly growing Scouts.

**Camporee 2008** – *David Gibson* is the Polaris District Camporee Coordinator. Information about this event is posted on the district website. Troop 1333 has been assigned tasks as the service troop for the event on March 28-30 at Camp Strake. [There will be a meeting for interested parent volunteers on Tuesday, February 19 at 7 pm at Trinity Luther Church in FLC 202.](#)

**Treasury** – *Lisa Gerdes* reported the troop checkbook to be in good standing though there are outstanding expenses relating to the new troop trailer and recent camp outs. She explained to new parents that checks written to the troop may take a while to be cashed since monies are collected by the troop scribe, transferred to the Scoutmaster, delivered to her, and then deposited in batches.

She also explained that profits earned from district fundraisers like Trailways Popcorn and Scout Fair tickets go directly into an individual Scout account to be used for Summer Camp or annual troop fees. Due to the growing number of Scouts and the labor intensity of the accounting, monthly camping expenses and the purchase of Scout uniforms cannot be taken from the Scout accounts. **Lisa will provide a report on the individual accounts after Scout Fair ticket sales are complete.**

Reimbursement forms for committee-approved troop purchases may be obtained from *Lisa* or through the Troop website at <http://bsatroop1333.org/resources.htm>.

*Lisa* is looking for volunteers to assist with the troop treasury. An accounting background is preferred but not required. *Wendy Valley* volunteered to assist.

**Scoutmaster** – *John Landry* reported that he had a several receipts to turn-in.

The next two campouts are especially important for new Scouts because they are nearby and will focus on beginner cooking and patrol-method camping.

The "Disaster" **campout is Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23 at Kaiserhoff**, a nearby retreat center owned by a Trinity Lutheran family. The newest Scouts will be working on First Aid with a trail to first class (T21) emphasis.

**March camping will be the 2008 Camporee at Camp Strake.** Troop 1333 Scouts will have assignments specific to the administration of this district event coordinated by *David Gibson*.

*John* reported that the calendar is up to date on the troop website through Summer Camp. *John* and *Mike* reminded parents that the calendar is both static and dynamic. The troop plans generally what they want to accomplish over several months and then the calendar is tweaked as the details are worked out.

*James Y'Barbo* and *Rob Mentz* are the two Assistant Scoutmasters who are coordinating the trail to first class (T21) emphasis for the newest Scouts. Patrol coaches have also been assigned to the new patrols to mentor, organize and encourage the Scouts towards their first class rank.

Scoutmasters meet monthly on the second Tuesday. They also meet in the Girl Scout hut each week during the troop meeting to organize and plan.

*Nathaniel Wiedner*, *Stan Bravanec*, and *Rick Gerdes* coordinate the venturing patrol for Scouts who are between the ages of 14 and 18 and interesting in higher adventure opportunities. Venturing opportunities are provided for Scouts who demonstrate appropriate mental and physical skills for a safe experience.

*Nathaniel* is currently processing paperwork for a Venturing Crew for males and females between the ages of 14 and 21. A Scout may be involved in a Crew and still remain in the troop working toward his Eagle Rank. It is important for older Scouts to stay active in the troop to provide leadership to younger Scouts.

*John* communicates weekly with parents through the troop e-mail distribution. **Parents who have not been receiving e-mails should contact *John* or *Mike Zarella* directly to be sure all e-mails are up to date.**

**Miscellaneous camping information** – All meds should be labeled and placed in a ziplock bag. One Scoutmaster will be assigned pharmacy detail on each campout. Tents and cooking gear are provided by the troop. Each patrol plans their menus planned in advance and all food is purchased by the troop grubmaster. No extra snacks are allowed. Basics supplies include a sleeping bag, a mess kit, a flashlight, a change of clothes, socks, underwear and a toothbrush. **A complete supply list is available on the troop website.**

**Adult leaders do not camp in the same campsite with the Scouts.** Only the Sr. Patrol Leader is allowed in the adult camp. Scouts camp in patrols and sleep two to a tent.

**Troop Website** – [www.bsatroop1333.org](http://www.bsatroop1333.org) - The troop website is as an excellent source of information for Scouts and parents. There is a troop calendar, medical forms, Board of Review (BOR) request forms, a camping supply list and tons of other information! There are also pictures on the website so that parents can see what their Scouts have accomplished. As a youth protection measure, only first names are printed on the website. **Parents who do not wish to have their Scout's picture on the website should contact *Mike*.**

**Summer Camp** – The first installment has been made to Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch (BTSR). Cost will include transportation to and from BTSR, an over-night stay at Balmorhea State Park and a side-trip to McDonald Observatory. Additional Summer Camp installments will be due March 16, April 1, and May 15.

All youth Summer Camp participants are required to have a Class II medical form, including a physical.

Parents who wish to attend Summer Camp must be BSA registered, must complete Youth Protection Training (YPT) on-line at [www.shac.org](http://www.shac.org) (or link from troop website), and must submit a Texas Department of Public Safety predator background check as well as a Class II or III medical form (depending on age) which also includes a physical.

Adults may engage in any number of volunteer opportunities at Summer Camp to assist Scouts as they earn merit badges. They may also take BSA adult training classes, enjoy horseback riding or compete with other adults at the shooting range. Adults may also simply enjoy reading a good book!

**Immediate registration is important for both adults and Scouts.** Troop reservations are made as an entire group and space is filling up quickly.

***Mike* will coordinate with *Daree Stracke* to provide a current list of Scouts who have successfully signed up for Summer Camp.**

**Life to Eagle Committee** – *Sandy Y'Barbo* reported that the troop has about 20 Life Scouts. The purpose of the committee is to provide leadership for Life Scouts who are working on their Eagle rank. Polaris District Life to Eagle representatives gave a presentation to the troop last week regarding the Eagle Scout project. Watch for e-mails about other such opportunities as Scouts approach the Life rank.

*Sandy* met with Carol at the Kaiserhoff Retreat Center. Carol has numerous project ideas to benefit Kaiserhoff for those Scouts who are interested. Visit the Life to Eagle link on the troop website for more Eagle Scout Project ideas.

*Mike Zarella* has completed a Life to Eagle Guidebook that will most likely be on the agenda for the March meeting.

**The next meeting will be announced via e-mail. Monthly meetings have been on Tuesday nights; however, several conflicts have prompted discussion about changing to Sunday evenings.**

**Advancement** – *Effective January 1, 2008 new advancement requirements related to bullying and internet youth protection were added to the Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks.* A new handbook is not required. **Stickers** that may be placed on the appropriate pages of the handbook **are available** at troop meetings. Details about the new requirements are available on the troop website at [www.bsatroop1333.org](http://www.bsatroop1333.org).

*Mike* explained the rank advancement process: Scouts are responsible for getting their handbooks signed-off as they complete rank advancement requirements. Parents are encouraged to remind their Scouts but they may not request a signature for their Scout. Once all of the requirements are completed, the Scout must request a Scoutmaster conference. Any Assistant Scoutmaster may conduct a Scoutmaster conference for ranks up to First Class. For First Class, Star and above, the Scoutmaster (*Mr. Landry*) must conduct the Scoutmaster conference. After a successful Scoutmaster conference, the Scout must request a Board of Review (BOR) using the on-line request form available at [http://bsatroop1333.org/bor\\_form.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/bor_form.htm).

The Scout rank does not require a BOR but the Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life do. The Eagle Scout rank requires an Eagle Board of Review.

Advancement records are very important. **Scouts should write their names on their handbooks.** Parents may also want to maintain a photocopy of completed rank pages in case the book is lost. Most lost handbooks eventually turn-up but the sign-offs are required for advancement recordkeeping.

**BOR** – A Board of Review (BOR) is essentially an interview with at least three troop committee members. A Scout must present himself in full uniform: tan shirt, green BSA pants, belt, socks, neckerchief and slide. Merit badge and Order of the Arrow (OA) sashes are appropriate though not required.

Hint: The committee will always ask the Scout to recite the Scout Law, Oath and Outdoor Code. Expectations toward that end will increase as the Scout advances through each rank. Visit the troop website for more information about how to prepare for a BOR.

**Mike Zarella will present a BOR training class. He will also post the previous training slide show on the troop website.** Additionally, each committee member will be given a list of rank-appropriate questions. New BOR committee members will be placed on teams with at least one experienced BOR committee member.

A sign-up sheet was circulated during the meeting. Parent volunteers who are interested but who did not sign up for this easy, easy, easy but so worthwhile opportunity should contact *Pauline Ramsey* at [pauline@ramseyweb.com](mailto:pauline@ramseyweb.com).

**Court of Honor (COH) - The next Court of Honor will be Sunday, March 2 in place of the regular troop meeting.** All Scouts and their families are invited and encouraged to attend the Courts of Honor even if they are not receiving rank advancement recognition. Scouts who have earned merit badges will also be recognized at the Court of Honor.

All Scouts must wear a full uniform: tan shirt, green Scout pants, belt, socks, neckerchief and slide. Merit badge and OA sashes are appropriate though not required.

**Closing** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm and followed by a general roundtable session.

Minutes respectfully submitted by *Terri Byrne* on Monday, February 18, 2008.