

Notes of Troop 119 Committee Meeting  
April 14, 2008

### **Scoutmaster Report - Bernie**

Since last Committee Meeting (March 11) we have:

- Patrol shuffle, Patrol Leader elections (March 13)
- 19 new scouts start (17 Webelos, 2 other boys). Most have started showing up.
- Youth Leader Training (YLT) (March 29)
- Monadnock Hiking Trip 27 boys, 9 adults, Challenging hike, all boys and adults made it to the top. Fun camping in the snow
- Held meetings during troop meetings for adults
- Scoutmaster Fundamental Training. 7 adult leaders participated from T119 (Rob C. Simon L. Jesse W. Lou S. Mike Y. Gini S. Bernie G.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

April 17 meeting -Youth Protection Training (YPT) everyone will watch Time to Tell. Then adults will go to another room where Jan and Gini will lead a discussion/answer questions.

April 20 – Patriot’s Day Campout – adult leaders include Mike Y, Donna N-R., Jon G, and Susan N.

April 25 – Order of the Arrow Ordeal. This is the first opportunity for those newly elected to the Order of the Arrow to fulfill the Ordeal requirement.

April 26 – Program Extravaganza at Rebecca’s Café in Burlington. Donna D will pick up materials.

May 10 Hiking trip Erik S is organizing and the boys are still deciding where to go.

May 24 Discovery Day in Lexington Center. Sue Ellen reserved 30 feet of space for the Boy Scout booth and for Keith to collect adult bicycles for his eagle project. The new scouts will need to man the booth to recruit and complete requirement 11 for first class.

May 26 Memorial Day Parade

May 30 Order of the Arrow Ordeal – another opportunity for newly elected scouts to fulfill this requirement.

### **Webelos Coordinator for next year:**

Bernie will recruit for this position. A May meeting will be planned for all the Webelos II leaders for next year and the two Boy Scout Troops to go over planning the calendar of events.

### **How to run a camping trip 101**

Jan presented a very detailed and comprehensive document with everything you would need to plan a Boy Scout outing. Thank you!

### **Membership status**

Still working on getting all the forms in from new scouts.  
Several new adult members have joined the troop.

### **Summer Camp**

Sue sent out the reminder for summer camp payments this week. They are due May 1. More adult coverage for Camp Bell is needed.

### **Advancement – Jan**

Order of the Arrow election for adult members – Jan and Mike Y have been elected.

The question: should patches be awarded in the same manner as merit badges and scout rank badges was discussed. The committee feels it is important for boys to get the chance to come forward and receive something, especially on a night when their parents are there. Also those who didn't go on a trip may be encouraged to attend.

Jan reviewed where scouts in the troop are on their trail to eagle. She pays particular attention to those nearing their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Troop T-shirts – Donna D**

Two price quotes were reviewed for polypropylene t-shirts. Tricon Sports in Lexington gave a better price. The committee decided to offer green shirts with white logo. Because of the increased cost and quantity, the shirts will be sold for \$10. Donna will have a sign up sheet/order form at meetings.

### **Training**

Mike sent out an email about the Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course offered 6/20-22 in the Connecticut Rivers Council. This training is now required for all crews going to Philmont. Lou recently completed the course and highly recommends it. In order for this troop to provide high adventure opportunities for our boys several adults should be trained.

CPR training needs to be offered on a yearly basis.

### **Long Term Planning:**

Philmont July 2009 – Glen M has submitted paper work.

David K:

### **PROPOSAL**

#### **“BIG TRIP” FOR HIGH-SCHOOL AGE SCOUTS**

#### **ST. JOHN, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**Departing 6:00am 31 December 2008 ; returning just after midnight 7 January 2009**

(LHS restarts on 6 January, thus students there would miss 2-3 days of school; for an additional \$100 in airfare less a small amount in per diem savings, we could return 24 hrs earlier and miss only 1-2 days of school, though this would limit some programming options.)

Trip to be limited to approx. 8-12 Scouts and Asst Scoutmasters . CRITERIA TBD: ages 15?-19, high-school age?, who have earned Life or Eagle Ranks?. Three or four CPR-trained, older adult members of Troop 119 would serve as chaperones. A scout-

committee selected by the attendees will work with trip coordinator in planning daily activities of the trip. All full participants be able to swim, be comfortable on and in the water, and be able to hike four miles in strenuous conditions (heat, hills, and rocky terrain). This trip is designed with the physically fit in mind, but exceptions and alternative activities could be arranged for those with special needs.

**ROUGH ESTIMATES OF COSTS:**

Round trip Airfare:	\$305	(16 slots currently reserved on US Air involving 2 changes down, 1 change back -note risks)
Local Transportation	245	(busses, jitneys, ferries, etc)
Food	225	(some brought in and cooked at campsite)
Program Fees, Equip	250	(entrance fees, guides, excursion)
Lodging:	125	(group sites currently reserved at Cinnamon Bay)
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TOTAL:	\$1150	x 11 = nearly \$13,000 [8 scouts, 3 adults]
	\$1150	x 16 = nearly \$18,500 [12 scouts, 4 adults]

This “Big Trip” is designed to meet a Troop 119 need for activities specifically designed to support and maintain interest in Scouting by our older scouts—providing them fresh opportunities to use their well-honed scouting skills in new, different, and inviting surroundings and not only for their personal and mutual benefit, but also in service of one of America’s most popular yet severely underfunded national parks. It (or something similar) might be repeated every 3 three years or so, thus becoming a regular, appealing activity for younger scouts to look forward to and serve as additional incentive for them to persevere along their respective eagle trails.

I therefore propose that Troop 119 support this venture by committing to fund one-third of its costs, using monies from the Big Trip Fund. This would represent a cost to the troop of approximately \$4,500- \$6,200. Estimated per-participant costs are approximately \$750 all-inclusive. Campership aid may also be made available to ensure that all eligible scouts would be able to attend.

St. John is an exceptional Caribbean island—2/3 of it protected as the Virgin Islands National Park. The scouts will not be lodging in some Caribbean resort hotel, but beach camping at baresites at the Cinnamon Bay Campground. In addition to the beach and hiking opportunities there, we would venture to other parts of the island to experience the broad spectrum of natural and archeological treasures to be found on St. John. Activities will include many watersports (swimming, snorkeling, sea kayaking, sailboarding, etc.); hiking through a wide variety of terrains including tropical forest, arid desert, and rocky cliffs; and chances to investigate the rich archeological and geological resources of the island. During the week, we hope to arrange other opportunities to meet fellow scouts from the Virgin Islands Council and perhaps participate in some activity with them. The educational opportunities are many. We would also help serve our ‘duty to country’ by undertaking at least one significant service project that would help United States National Park service maintain this treasured island. We would conclude the week with a major excursion to an offshore location—perhaps an overnight sea-kayaking expedition to Jost Van Dyke, BVI 12 miles away, a ferry ride to Virgin Gorda, BVI (one of the premiere bouldering sites in the world), or a introductory SCUBA dive.

**MOTION: that Troop 119 support the proposed 2008-2009 “Big Trip” for up to 16 older scouts and adult participants to St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, absorbing 1/3 of its costs up to \$6,200.**

The committee unanimously approves of this trip. Much discussion centered on the question **Should the Troop fund a portion of the cost of this trip?**

Reasons for financially supporting a portion of the trip include: the troop has the funds, these are older boys going on the trip who have sold many wreaths, and the troop needs to provide activities for older scouts to keep them involved.

Reasons for not financially supporting a portion of the trip include: the troop in the past has not financially supported a trip that was not for the whole troop, if the troop were to support this financially why wouldn't the troop support a Philmont trip or other high adventure trips such as the canoeing trip in June.

The discussion will continue next month.