SAMOSET "He walks over Much"
Occoquan District Newsletter

Communicating at the Water's end

Volume 1, Issue 12

December 1, 2009

Do You Want to Attend a National High Adventure Base

Troops and crews, still want attend one of the National High Adventure (HA) Bases this summer? There is still room on the NCAC contingents for both Seabase and Philmont. Maine, Northern Tier and Sea Base all have crew slots still open.

The Philmont 2011 lottery is open Jan 15 to Feb 15 2010. The NCAC Philmont Contingents are now forming - the dates are June 28 (8 crews/94 seats avail); July 05 (5 Crews/ 47 seats avail); July 12a (4 crews/ 47 seats) and July 12b (1 crew/12 seats) - the council is looking for contingent leaders - great deal as you only have to pay transportation costs. If you are planning on traveling to Philmont, using the NCAC Contingents is a great way to go since NCAC handles all of your logistics and travel.

Camp Goshen 2010 staffing process is starting the in January (check their website for info).

There are 2 training opportunities sponsored by the NCAC HA Committee for Advisers going to any of the HA programs in 2010 (doesn't make any difference if you are going on an NCAC contingent or not). The first is 10 Jan at 1pm at Booz-Allen; the 2nd is 13 Mar (8am) at Camp Snyder. The 2 programs are complementary with the 2nd one being more hands on training for crew advisors. If you are interested in attending either session, contact Lee Hutchins, Troop 295, call him at 703.627.7638 or by e-mail at hutchinsel@yahoo.com.

There will be brochures at the December district round-table for both Lenhok'sin and Maine High Adventure.

During the University of Scouting in January there will be a course offered on the National HA Program.

Jamboree attendance - NCAC was allotted 12 troops. Any scout wanting to attend (not visit) needs to make their wishes known. There will be provisional opportunities made available for just about anyone wishing to attend. The Districts and Council will be coordinating these efforts.

Popcorn Order Status

Popcorn sales is in the home stretch. Just a quick reminder about upcoming dates:

- **Dec 5** -2nd Popcorn pickup
- **Dec 20**-Final Payment due

Please mark these dates on your calendar. Units will also receive reminder notices both thru email and the district's YahooGroups. Since the November 18th order date is the last time to order so make sure your unit orders enough for "show and sell" or any other orders that may need to be filled. There is plenty of time for district scouts to take advantage of using the online ordering as well. If all of this is not enough to motivate your unit to want to excel here are the additional incentives that scouts can obtain:

- **Fill-it-Up Program** – Units should make sure that completed order sheets are, turned in to council every Friday before noon. Why? To get a $100 Walmart gift card of course. What a deal!
- **Washington Nationals Game 2010** – For every scout who submits a completed sheet each week (not duplicated) will receive two tickets to a game. There is no limit on the amount of tickets given to a scout. Plus the top seller will get to throw out the First Pitch.
- **Top Seller Day** – All scouts who sell $1000 or more will be invited to a special top seller day at Camp Snyder.
- **Photo Contest** – NCAC is having a photo contest. Submit a photo of your unit doing something silly or unique with your popcorn or selling the popcorn and your unit could win a $100 Walmart gift card. Trails End (scout popcorn supplier) is also running the same contest, so submit your photo to them too.

For questions or information, contact the district Popcorn Kernel: **Michele Hansell**, call 703.389.0588 (Cell) or 703.583.2121 (Home) or michele.hansell@verizon.net via e-mail.

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Occoquan District Newsletter

Celebrate Scouting with the Boy Scouts of America and the United States Postal Service!

Quotes of Great Leaders

"The generation now being shaped by scouting will be strengthened by deserved self-confidence and molded with its own history, kindness, bravery, honesty, and its all-out pursuit of excellence."

Earl G. Graves, Publisher, Black Enterprise Magazine

Boy Scout/Varsity Roundtable

Your News on Occoquan District Website?

Have you gone to the Occoquan District webpage? If not, you are invited to use this link: www. boyscouts-ncac.org Does your unit want to add events to the Occoquan District calendar? If you want to share information on the website, contact Ken Eggers at eggerskf @yahoo.com or by phone at 703.488.9729.

BSA Car License Plates

Let's get BSA license plates in Virginia approved in time for our 100th birthday! We are over halfway to our goal of 350 paid applications, so help us get BSA plates into production. We need your help! BSA plates cost only $10 ($20 for personalized plates). Log in at www.scoutingvirginia.org and look for the license plate on the lower right side. What is needed is a completed vsa10 application, your check (or credit card or checks payable to "BSA" and write "License Plates" in memo section), and mail it all to:

BSA License Plates
Heart of Virginia Council
P.O. Box 6809
Richmond VA 23230

Direct questions to Todd Martin, Heart of Virginia Council, todd.martin@scouting.org, or 804-204-2613. Do not delay!

2010 District Merit Badge Day

The response from district scouts interested in signing up for Merit Badge classes in January has been "off the charts." So far 256 scouts have pre-registered to work on 443 Merit Badges. Instructors have been identified and are already preparing for Merit Badge Day to be held on January 18 (Martin Luther King Holiday). There will not be walk-ins allowed this year to prevent the large number of scouts who had to wait in lengthy lines to sign up for Merit Badge classes. By pre-registering, it allows the organizing committee to make sure we have sufficient and available instructors and that the facility is prepared and ready to host the event. This year's Merit Badge Day will be hosted again at the Lake Ridge LDS Church, at 3718 Old Bridge Road. A new folder has been established in the YahooGroups files section titled 2010 District Merit Badge Day which contains rosters, class lists and applicable workbooks.

Citizenship in the Community MB

Boy Scout and Varsity Roundtable (BSVRT)

December BSVRT. If you over indulged in the Thanksgiving munchies and are in need of some exercise, you might consider attending the December Roundtable which will be held Monday, Dec. 14, 7:15 PM at Grace Baptist Church on Spriggs Road. BSVRT breakout session will immediately follow the general session.

The theme for this month's breakout session is "Winter Camping". Mike Green from Team 1374 will share information collected from various BSA and other authoritative references. This month's requested topic of interest is "Adult Recognition: training knots and other awards" presented by Janene Lyman from Troop 1374.

It is always beneficial for units to be represented at Roundtable to ensure they have the latest news regarding happenings in the district and council as well as have the opportunity to share the fellowship of other Scouters.

If you need to make an announcement of interest to Boy Scout Troops or Varsity Teams, please let Pete DeSalva know via e-mail by Sunday evening (December 13th). Announcements must be brief. If you want to pass more information than can be shared in a couple of minute, bring flyers which can be inserted in the unit mail-folders prior to the breakout session.

BSVRT Commissioner:
Peter DeSalva (Troop 35)
703-772-5797
desalvapn @earthlink.net

BSVRT Staff:
Mike Green (Team 1374)
703-794-9766; mikeandheidigreen@yahoo.com
Janene Lyman (Team 1374)
703-791-7937; Lymanfamily1@msn.com

District Order of the Arrow (OA) Chapter

Because of the Council Camporee next Spring, the Chapter will be having its ordeal 3 weeks before the Camporee in order to help Goshen prepare. Therefore, December begins the Chapter's annual elections process. Scoutmasters should have already been contacted to coordinate an O/A election for their units. Elections this year must be completed by the end of March. Adult applications for membership must be into the Chapter by the first of March. If you have any questions please contact the Chapter or ask your unit's O/A Representative.

If you are already a member, do not forget to send in your membership dues for next year. Look on the Lodge Website for details: www.boyscouts-ncac.org/oalodge470. Our next Chapter meeting will be at the December Roundtable (7:30pm, December 14).

Please help the Chapter provide a great program by coming out to the Chapter meetings. For more information, please look on the Chapter user group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/occoquanchapter to get the latest information on the happenings at the Chapter and the Lodge. If you are not a member of the group, sign up.

Occoquan District OA Chapter

2009 Fall Camporee Legends of the Sleepy Hollow

On 16 Oct 2009, Boy Scouts and Scouters descended upon the rural race track known as Emerald Downs in Stafford to participate in the 2009 Occoquan District Fall Camporee Legends of the Sleepy Hollow.

For weeks prior to the event, many Scouters of the Occoquan District were building and hammering and creating the fun and events that Scouts would enjoy during the camporee known as the Legends of the Sleepy Hollow.

There was paintball shooting, knife throwing, orienteering, rock wall climbing, obstacles courses, strength and endurance challenges and theatrics to improve already outstanding and funny skits and songs. There were many other fun and exciting activities including the Woodbridge Amateur Radio Operators Club who demonstrated many cool communication tools including the Amateur (HAM) radio, Morse code and instant messaging/texting over the radio. Thanks to the gentlemen of the Woodbridge Amateur Radio Club for helping with the Fall Camporee!

A huge thanks goes out to all those who Volunteered to plan and execute a successful camporee. More than 140 participants from Occoquan District as well as Troop 581 from nearby Bull Run District participated in the activities.

A special thanks goes out to John Pallansch and the Order of the Arrow. John's untiring willingness to help scouting in Occoquan District is remarkable! We could not have done this without you!

Units Re-Charter in December

What is your unit's Re-Charter status? Virtually all units have attended one of the district's Re-Charter Training sessions and most units participated in the Re-Charter Turn-In on December 5 at . Here is the status of "Charter Turn-In" for the Occoquan District.

Unit Re-Charter (as of 4 Dec):

82 - Total # of district units
74 - # of units that activated ScoutNet software (90%)
15 - # of units not yet submitting Re-Charter (18%)
59 - # of units completing Internet portion of Re-Charter process (71%)
8 - # of units not yet started process (9%)

This is based on the following.

1. **Pack 1357 (No Status Information)**
2. **Pack 2024 (No Status Information)**
3. **Pack 1400 (Not Re-Chartering)**
4. **Troop 1149 (No Status Information)**
5. **Troop 1456 (Working)**

6. **Pack 1390 (No Status Information)**
7. **Pack 1399 (Working)**
8. **Troop 1420 (Working)**

The number of units that have turned in the Re-Charter packages is 49. If your unit is having difficulty with the ScoutNet software or has questions, contact your unit's commissioner or Roger Labrie at 703.590.2306 or via e-mail at roglabrie@msn.com.

New High Adventure Program Summaries:

To obtain information on program opportunities, age requirements, and prices at Goshen's Lenhok'sin High Adventure Area, the Adirondack High Adventure Area, the Maine High Adventure Area, the Northern Tier High Adventure Bases, Philmont, and Florida Sea Base, see the 12/4/09 edition of High Adventure Program Summaries soon to be available at http://bsatroop638.googlepages.com/highadventureprogramsummaries.

Additional information is available at the NCAC High Adventure website at http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/highadventure. Many of these programs provide provisional opportunities for youth and adults unable to participate as a unit-crew. For information or questions contact Dave Green at 703-536-5189 of dkgreenva@hotmail.com if you need help finding a program suitable for your situation.

First aid and CPR certifications required for high adventure activities are available from NCAC (go to the council website and click on the training tab); the Arlington Chapter, American Red Cross (go to their website at www.arlingtonredcross.org/training); Inova (see http://www.inova.org); Wilderness First Aid (see http://wfa.net); and Center for Wilderness Safety (see http://wildsafe.com).

Occoquan District,
National Capital Area Council,
Boy Scouts of America

"Trust should be the basis for all our moral training."

Sir Robert Baden-Powell

Occoquan District Key-3, NCAC

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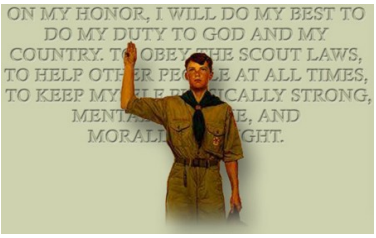
Visit your district website!

Www.boyscouts-ncac.org/Occoquan

Samoset newsletter is edited by Rich Sackett, Occoquan District Communications/Marketing committee. He can be reached at RSackett01@Comcast.net or by phone at 571.274.5340 for comments or articles. Input is due seven days before the end of each month for publication the following month.



The scouting way.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Joint ODC & Commissioners	11	12
13	14 Roundtable	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Popcorn Payment Due to NCAC	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 B-P Nominations Due		

THE SCOUT LAW - A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, **Obedient**, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

The Meaning of the Scout Law: The Scout Law has 12 points. Each is a goal for every Scout; doing his best to live up to the Law. It is not always easy to do, but a Scout always tries. **A Scout is Obedient.** A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobeying them.

District & Council Events
90 Day Look-Ahead Calendar

Dec 5 - Last popcorn order pick-up

Dec 9 - Winter Backpacking, 7:30 pm – REI, Bailey's Crossroads. For more information, see http://www.rei.com/stores/store_event_detail.jsp?pid=8F58FEB9FA7595F787B4E6E1275CBDB9&template_id=14&template_family=webDetail&ignore_cache=1

Dec 13 – CPR/AED/First Aid Training, 8 am to 4 pm , Camp Snyder; Haymarket, VA

Dec 21 - Payment for unit popcorn orders due to Council

Dec 31 - Nominations for Lord Baden Powell Award, Cubmaster Training Award, Scoutmaster Award of Merit, Scoutmaster Key, Scoutmaster Training Award, District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Award due to Council

Jan 7 – NCAC High Adventure Committee Meeting – 7:30 pm – Scout Service Center , Bethesda , MD. Scouters interested in finding out about the committee's activities are welcome to attend.

Jan 7 – 2010 NCAC Philmont Advisor & Crew Leader Training, 1– 4:30 PM, Booz Allen Hamilton, 8283 Greensboro Dr., McLean, VA. Training and organization will be directed to adult advisers and youth crew leaders traveling with the 2010 NCAC Philmont contingents (others welcome if pre-registered with Ed Graydon ed.graydon@verizon.net or 703-625-1849)

Jan 7, 14, 21 & 28 – District Training Days (NLE, Leader Specific, Youth Protection, & Activity Safety Training), 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (generally), Grace Baptist Church, Woodbridge, VA [Contact Jack Zeto at 703.979.2716 for more information]

Jan 23 – 2010 NCAC Commissioner College, Aldersgate United Methodist Church , Alexandria, VA, 8 am to 5 pm

Feb 20– NCAC University of Scouting (UofS), Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria, VA, 7:30 am to 4 pm

This newsletter has been prepared by the Communications/Marketing Committee for the exclusive use of scouts, scouters and scout parents as a means of communicating important information from the Occoquan District Committee, Commissioner Corps and District Executive.