THE BLUE BLAZE

Newsletter of the Catoctin Mountain District (Est. June 3, 2003) **June 2008 Vol. 6 No. 6**

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

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Upcoming Events

June

21-28 IMPESSA
24 District Committee Meeting 7:30pm Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St., Frederick
25 Eagle Review

July No District events – Have fun with your unit summertime activities.

August

9 OA Vigil at Goshen
12 Roundtable/OA 7:15pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick
12 Boy Scout Leader Specific Training part 1 starting at 6pm, old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick
For more information contact Damon Allen at ALLENONTHELAKE@comcast.net
14 Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm Walkersville LDS Chapel
18-23 Camp Airy
23 Trainer Development Conference NCAC
26 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St. Frederick
27 Eagle Review

You are welcome to take training in any District

For more information, visit http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=1934

District Key 3 Leadership

Tim Richardson, District Director trichardson@boyscouts-ncac.org , 301-529-6188
Ed Clayson, District Chairman, eclays@fred.net 301-845-2015
Randy Johnson, District Commissioner, walkersville.scouts@gmail.com 240-529-7363

Greetings from your new District Commissioner! By Randy Johnson

I'm excited to be working with you all, and look forward to great times as we approach the 100 year anniversary of Scouting. At this time of year, in between the camping and outdoor activities, please take a few minutes to review your Centennial Unit Award goals with your Unit Commissioner and take note of your progress. It is the perfect time, as we plan our annual program, to see how far we've come and renew our goals and efforts to deliver the promise of Scouting to the young people we serve. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you.

For those who do not yet know me, my name is Randy Johnson, and I have been in Scouts for about 17 years now, 10 as a youth and 7 as an adult. I've held positions in Cub Scouts (2 yrs), Boy Scouts (4 yrs), Varsity Scouts (2 yrs), Venturing (1 yr), and with the Commissioner Corps (4yrs). Somehow, that adds up to 7. On the home front I have a sweet wife and 4 cute kids, aged 8 months to 7 years. We are truly a Scouting family and plan to be involved for some time to come.

I feel, in our world today, that Scouting has more to offer our youth than it ever has, and would like to thank each and every volunteer for their efforts. I think the BSA's Vision Statement http://www.scouting.org/Media/mission.aspx expresses our shared desires well as we seek to "prepare every eligible youth in [Frederick County] to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law."

September Roundtable will be a Picnic!

Our September 9th Roundtable will be a picnic (location to be announced) with catered food at $10 per person. This is a great opportunity to have a night out, no cooking or dishes to do and enjoy the company of your fellow Scouters.

Scouter Resources Online

Dear Scouter:

For almost the past year I've been accumulating and sorting Scouting links and information for my web site at: http://retiredscouter.com.

So far, I've managed to sort out over 1,600 camp songs, 465 campfire skits, cooking recipes, dutch oven recipes, games, activities and have listed close to 10,000 web page links from all over the world. The close to 10,000 web page links are categorized into over 600 different categories, ranging from tin foil cooking to instructions on how to make a patrol box to a couple of the most unusual camp recipes I've ever seen.

I don't do week-to-week Scouting any more, so this project is just an extension of the 'couple of hours a week' that I've been investing in Scouting program for the past (ahem) years. I'm actively looking to share this information with other Scouters, and I invite you to take a couple of minutes to visit the information that I've accumulated. Hopefully there will be 'something' that you can use somewhere in your program, if there isn't then maybe you could send a copy of this email to someone who might have need of the information... there's a lot there, it's free and it's useful.

Yours in Scouting, Jim Speirs.

The new official Scout uniform, coming our way in fall 2008:

Check out the link below for full details and photos.
http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobgeier/BSA_newuniform.pdf

Wet-Weather Fire Tip

Use fire starters. Fire starters won't take the place of tinder and kindling, but they can give your match flame a boost to get a blaze going. Make your own fire starters at home or carry a candle stub. In some parts of the country, you can find *pitch wood* - a piece of dead pine heavy with dried sap. The ease with which it burns makes it the perfect natural fire starter.

Gone Home

Hal Noer from AT District has reported that Charles Asmar passed away on May 5th after a 4 year battle with leukemia. Mr. Asmar was an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 1023, was an active cabin parent at Camp Airy and attended many camps and camporees. He was a Scout in Lebanon and was very helpful with the training group and Webelos Woods in FSK District. We send our sympathy to his family.

Tornado Tragedy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the tornado victims, their families, and everyone in the Mid-America Council. They are setting up a Victims' Assistance Fund and will post information on their Website http://www.mac-bsa.org. Please do not call or email them unless you are a family member.

The BSA now has a process for properly channeling offers of financial assistance for the impacted families, as well as interest in volunteering time to the effort. **Forward any contact information and offers of support to the new emergency response e-mail at** oomcd@netbsa.org. Right now, we need to give emergency responders and the Mid-America Council time to attend to the task at hand.

Frederick Police Department Youth Academy 2008

Sessions will be offered:

August 11th, 12th, 13th, & 14th

9:00 am-12:30 pm

This three hour thirty minute program provides children ages 7 to 14 with a close-up look at Law Enforcement and its tools of the trade. The Academy will be held at the Frederick Police Department's Training Facility located on Plant Road off Linganore Road. There is **no cost** for this program.

Pre-registration is required and class size is limited.

The children will have the opportunity to learn what it is like to be a police officer by participating in scenarios, learning about stranger danger and internet safety, looking at departmental equipment, watching a K-9 demonstration, dusting for fingerprints, and receiving information on departmental programs. All attendees will also have the chance to try the physical agility course --weather permitting.

- **The academy registration deadline is Friday August 1st.**
- **Your registration will be confirmed by phone or e-mail before Monday August 4th.**
- **Youth Academy address: 6424 Plant Road, Frederick MD 21701 (off of Linganore Rd)**
- **For more information please contact: Michele Bowman, Outreach Coordinator**
  Frederick Police Department
  (301) 600-2091 or mbowman@fredco-md.net

Frederick Police Department
Youth Police Academy 2008
Registration Form

SESSION CHOICE (please circle one): Aug. 11th Aug. 12th Aug. 13th Aug. 14th

Child's Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Child's School: _____

Child's Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone #'s: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Emergency Contact (name & phone #): _____

Any medical conditions that we need to be aware of?: _____

ENROLLMENT WAIVER

WAIVER – As the parent or guardian of the above named child, I authorize participation in the Frederick Police Department Youth Police Academy. I assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation both during an activity and en route, and do hereby release and waive all claims against the Frederick Police Department, it's staff, volunteers, and participants. I also grant permission for emergency first aid to be given to my child in case of injury. Children may occasionally be photographed or videotaped while participating in the program. These images may also appear on the organization's website or local news media.

_____ _____

Parent / Guardian signature *date*

Please mail completed form to:

Michele Bowman
Frederick Police Department
100 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 600-2091 (301) 600-2148 fax
mbowman@fredco-md.net

Pack 570 Bridges Webelos by Vicky Carswell

Troop 570 welcomes new Scouts.

We couldn't have gotten better weather if we had requested it done to our specifications. Pack 570 was pleased and very proud of the hard work each and every Webelos put into his program. We were entertained by Webelos Scout David P. and honored that T270 ceremonies team presented to us the 4 Winds Arrow of Light ceremony. And we present to you and the rest of CMD Troop 570 new scouts - Timothy C.; Gabriel C.; Layquan F.; Kevin G. and David P.

Troop 270 Ceremonies Team helps with Arrow of Light ceremony.

Community Day at FSK Mall

On May 17th a group of Catoctin Mountain District Scouters took part in the Community Day at FSK Mall as an effort to make Scouting more visible and to help recruit new youth. Youth and adults who stopped by the booth were able to have their photo taken with BALOO the Bear. Informational packets about Scouting were handed out and folks just dropped by to talk about Scouting and what it was all about.

Many thanks to Dan Speace, Membership Chairman, who organized this effort and to Ron Layman, Tim Richardson, Steve and Sandy Crowe and Colby Child and son for their help with this event.

PHILMONT TREK ADVISORS FOR 2009!!!

Good News – Philmont has awarded the National Capital Area Council with a generous amount of Waite Philips Campership funds for Scouts for the 2009 camping season.

Not SO Good News –The application deadlines has been moved up to August 15, 2008. IF YOU KNOW OF A SCOUT WHO IS PLANNING TO ATTEND PHILMONT IN 2009, EITHER WITH THE SCOUT'S UNIT OR WITH A COUNCIL CONTINGENT AND COULD USE A HELPING HAND WITH THE FINANCES, LET HIM OR HER KNOW ABOUT THIS CAMPERSHIP OPPORTUNITY. PLEASE USE THE ATTACHED FORM OR DOWN LOAD THE WAITE PHILIPS CAMPERSHIP APPLICATION FROM THE NCAC WEBSITE, FILL IT IN COMPLETELY ANS SUBMIT IT BEFORE THE DUE DATE ON THE FORM.

We probably have enough money in the fund to help almost every Scout who applies, but they must apply before the due date. Please call or email me with questions

John Ruppel
301-271-4105
ruppeljb@erols.com

Boy Scouts honor Brian Gaeng as Distinguished Citizen

By Jim Sundergill

The Frederick County Boy Scouts held their Thirteenth Annual "George Delaplaine" Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner at the Lynnfield Event Complex on Tuesday June 10, 2008. This event is held to honor an outstanding Frederick County citizen and to raise funds for and awareness of the local Boy Scout program.

This year's honoree is J. Brian Gaeng, President and CEO of the BlueRidge Bank which was founded this year and is headquartered in downtown Frederick. Mr. Gaeng has spent much of his 28 year banking career with Mercantile affiliates Fredericktown Band and Fidelity Bank, serving as president and CEO of both institutions. Mr. Gaeng has lived in Frederick County for the last 20 years and has served on the boards of many community organizations. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Gaeng stated that "the lessons learned in Scouting are exactly what any parent would want for their child." He further noted that "Scouting is a symbol for all that is good and healthy in our youth."

Eagle Scout Patrick Herrity congratulating Brian Gaeng for his Distinguished Citizen award.

As a token of his award, Mr. Gaeng was given an official Boy Scout campaign hat and neckerchief. In addition, he was presented with a replica of a sculpture entitled "The Boy Scout." The original stands outside of the national Boy Scouts of America headquarters in Irving, Texas.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mr. Tom Kleinhanzl, President and CEO of Frederick Memorial Hospital. Tom Wheatley, District Commissioner for Appalachian Trail District noted in his introductory remarks that Scouting has been on going in Frederick County for over 75 years. In addition to the adventure filled program that the Boy Scout program is famous for, in their Fall "Scouting For Food" program, the Scouts in Frederick County collect 50 – 60% of the food for the County food banks.

A highlight of the evening was the talk "What Scouting Means to Me" by Eagle Scout Patrick Herrity. Patrick told the audience about his experiences in Scouting and his plans for additional Scouting adventures. After his talk, Eagle Scout Herrity then helped Boy Scout District Director Tim Richardson with the presentation of the award to Mr. Gaeng.

District Committee News

In an effort to help the Scouting leadership understand what the District Committee does, the minutes of the last District Committee meeting are reprinted below for you to read. The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) from each unit is a voting member of the District Committee and is encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. Those meetings are held the 4th Tuesday, 7:30pm at the Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St. Frederick. The District Committee is also looking for new members to get involved in making decisions that affect our District. If you have questions or are interested in getting involved on the District level, please contact Ed Clayson at eclays@fred.net 301/845-2015

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN
District Committee Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2008

Attendees: Ed Clayson, District Chairman
Amy Spessard, Relationships Committee
Sandy Crowe, OA Advisor
Debbie Crabb, Vice Chairman – Membership
Linda Sundergill, Vice Chairman – Marketing
Jim Sundergill, COR Pack 1055
Dan Speace, Advancement Chairman
Ron Layman, Member at Large
Larry Boyd, Vice Chairman – Finance
Tim Richardson, District Director

Discussion:

Ed Clayson started the meeting by going over the slate of District Committee members for the 2008-2009 Scouting year. That list is appended to these minutes. Ed then opened the meeting for input and reports from those in attendance.

Amy Spessard reported that overall in our District, the number of youth completing the religious emblem programs is declining. The Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore (which covers Frederick County) is aware of the issue and will be taking action soon for Catholic youth. Of particular concern though is those Catholic youth who are in units that are not sponsored by Catholic Churches. The youth must be made aware of the emblem programs and be given the opportunity to work on those awards. Amy also reported on an historic trail being established in Baltimore. She will provide more details as they become known.

Dan Speace reported on the Scouting presence at FSK Mall last Saturday. He said he appreciated the many volunteers who turned out to help him and mentioned that Tim Richardson was a big hit in the Bear costume. Dan had pictures taken of the bear with each of the youth. He then sent copies to their homes in hope that some of them would sign up for Scouting. All in all Dan felt that the event was quite a success and has arranged for a repeat in September. He also mentioned that planning is well under way for the "4-Rs Retreat" scheduled for June 7. Dan then had to leave due to a conflicting commitment. At the Retreat, members of the District Committee will brainstorm about ways to attract youth to Scouting.

Sandy Crowe reported that she has just taken over as OA Advisor and is concerned with the lack of youth showing up for the meetings and programs. Several suggestions were made and Sandy said she would consider them all.

Debbie Crabb said that she was looking forward to the upcoming 4-Rs Retreat and felt it would be an ideal opportunity for a handoff of responsibilities between herself and Dan Speace. She also stated that the District Committee should establish a date for Join Scouting Night so that the units could begin planning. Several dates were discussed with the result being that JSN for Catoctin Mountain District will be held on September 3rd this year.

Linda Sundergill talked about the Scouting For Food program and the lack of publicity it had received last year from the *News-Post*. It was agreed that more effort would be made to correct this. There was a discussion as to whether the event should go from a two weekend event to a one weekend event. It was decided to bring the proposal to the SFF coordinators for their consideration and recommendation back to the committee. For the one day event, youth – in pairs – would knock on doors and ask the residents for contributions. According to Tim Richardson, in other areas, this technique has markedly increased the amount of contributions. Additionally, it was decided to contact the Girl Scouts to see if they would like to participate in SFF this year. Finally, it was decided that the *Frederick News-Post* would be asked to sponsor the event by providing advanced, on-going, in-depth coverage of the event.

Ron Layman reported that there were approximately 90 people at the annual District Awards Banquet. Everyone gave Ron a round of applause for his efforts and the success of the program.

Larry Boyd provided a financial snapshot of the Friends of Scouting program. CMD is over the goal for the Scouter portion of the program but only at about 65% to 70% of our goal for the Family portion of the program or about $9,000 short.

There are still three LDS Wards that haven't contributed and two units for which presentations haven't been made but there will still need to be phone calls to contributors from last year who haven't given yet this year. Consequently, it may still be possible to meet out District goals for the year.

Tim Richardson ended the meeting on a positive note that everything seems to be going well. The George Delaplaine Scouter Recognition Dinner will be held on June 10 and Tim is looking for a great night to advertise Scouting to the Frederick community. Everyone was asked to keep on working hard and Tim thanked everyone for their dedicated efforts.

Decisions:

1. Join Scouting Night for Catoctin Mountain District will be held on Wednesday September 3, 2008.
2. Scouting For Food this November will be conducted on one weekend. Scouts (in pairs) will knock on each door and ask the residents for contributions.
3. The Girl Scouts will be asked if they would also like to help with SFF. If so, GS representatives will be asked to be at the October Roundtable so that they, along with the Boy Scout units, can pick areas from which they would like to collect food.
4. A meeting will be set up with the *Frederick News-Post* together with Boy Scout and Girl Scout representatives (if they elect to participate). The *News-Post* will be asked to sponsor SFF this year by providing advanced and in-depth coverage of the event in the newspaper.

Action Items:

1. Ed Clayson will contact Linda Morgan, 2008 CMD JSN Coordinator, about the JSN date and have her announce that date to the District.
2. Amy Spessard will obtain contact information for the Girl Scouts.
3. The SFF committee will arrange a meeting with the *Frederick News-Post*.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Sundergill, Acting Scribe

Approved by Ed Clayson, District Chairman 6-16-08