THE BLUE BLAZE

Newsletter of the Catoctin Mountain District (Est. June 3, 2003) **November 2008 Vol. 6 No. 11**

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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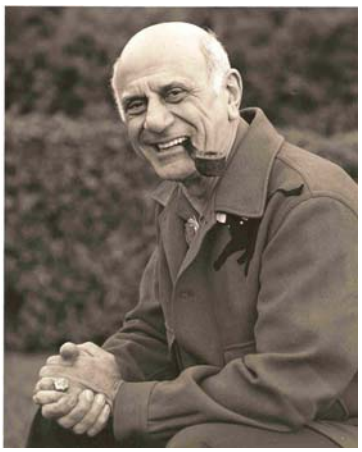
Upcoming Events

November
26 Eagle Review
December
2 Popcorn Unit Pick up of 2nd order
9 Roundtable/OA 7:15pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick
11 Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm LDS Chapel, Walkersville
16 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St. Frederick
22 Popcorn Final Payment Due from Units
29 Boy Scout Bowling Tournament
31 Silver Beaver and Award of Merit Nominations due
January 2009
10 OA Lodge Banquet
13 Roundtable/OA 7:15pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick
15 Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm LDS Chapel, Walkersville
19 Inter-troop Basketball tournament
21 Popcorn District Kernel Recognition Dinner
24 Commissioner's College
27 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St. Frederick
28 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 , 240-529-6188
Ed Clayson, District Chairman, eclays@fred.net 301-845-2015
Randy Johnson, District Commissioner, walkersville.scouts@gmail.com 240-529-7363



Joe Davis

Joe Davis, affectionately known as Uncle Joe to many Scouts and Scouters in Frederick County passed away on October 25, 2008 at age 96 after a brief illness. A memorial service was held at Evangelical Lutheran Church on November 15th with a large attendance. Scouts from Troop 274 formed the honor guard and Scouts from Troop 1812, sponsored by Evangelical Lutheran Church, were the ushers for the event. There were six speakers plus eulogies from two of Joe's pastors, each revealing different aspects of Joe's wonderful life. If you would like to see a video of the service, go to **http://www.philstaff.com/?tag=video** and click on Joe Davis Memorial. The first 20 minutes of the video is gathering time at the church. But after that, the actual service begins

We thank you, our Scouting family, for your support and caring through Uncle Joe's illness and passing. Your cards, notes and prayers were much appreciated.

Yours in Scouting, Jim and Linda Sundergill

On the Bench

Al Miller, co-founder of the First Aid Meet and Camp Airy recently had surgery at FMH and is now getting rehab at Glade Valley Nursing facility in Walkersville. He is in Room 223 and his phone number is 301-898-4562. He would love to have company, so if you have time to stop by or give a call, it would be much appreciated.

The Philmont 2010 lottery is coming up!

It is time to try to get into Philmont for the 2010 season. The attached file describes the lottery system that replaced the phone call-in of several years ago. Our Region is the Northeast Region and we have the open week of Nov. 24-30 to sign up. You can sign up for all dates possible (recommended) or try for just a few. The shorter treks of 7, 8, or 9 days are often overlooked. They are slightly more expensive on a per day basis as compared to the 12-day treks ($54 per day instead of $51 for the math-inclined out there).

A very good game plan is to team up with other Troops in the area to both increase your chances and to ensure an adequate number of potential crew members later. Back in 2006, both T279 and T1066 put in for 2 crews each rather than each trying for just one. Both got slots for 2 crews and then picked the better of the two dates. It also allowed some flexibility when plans changed for some of the Scouts.

The year 2009 will be the last year of DoubleH and no treks will be offered in 2010 or beyond at this point. Philmont offered no additional details other than the Rocky Mountain Foundation (the actual owners of the land) were not renewing the lease beyond the 6th year of operation and are looking "to go in another direction." Most crews are already pretty good at doing that at DoubleH!

The good news (if any) is that slots are available for the 2009 season and that the NCAC provisional contingent has had no signups other than myself. The bottom line is that I have some time penciled in on my 2009 calendar for my third DoubleH trek and could be easily talked into getting a Crew or two together for one last trek across some of the prettiest terrain in New Mexico!

Tom Wheatley, AT District High Adventure Representative
NCAC DoubleH Base Coordinator (for a little while more), Lenhok'sin 6 years and counting, Philmont 2002, 2006
Double H 2005, 2007, 2009? tmwheatley1981@gmail.com 301-371-4797

Inaugural Event 2009

If your unit is interested in volunteering to help at the 2009 Inaugural Event please visit **www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=24266&orgkey=1988** and complete the online interest form.

(Note: This opportunity is open ONLY to Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers ages 14 and older registered within the NCAC.)

New Super Derby Rules

The new Super Derby rules are available on our District Website at www.boyscouts-ncac.org/catoctinmountain under District News Items- Cub Scouts or by clicking on the link below

http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=20672&orgkey=2009

Unit Contact Information Online by Dave Place, District Webmaster 301-712-6888

We want to have contact information available online for each unit. We want the contact information to be up-to-date. We also wish to use such information in the District unit mapping project. The NCAC requires us to have permission to post such information online (or in any publication for that matter).

Since we collect information from every unit in the District once per year at Recharter time, I would think this is the perfect time to collect the information we require. On the next page is a one-page document that asks for the unit and contact information which could be included within the Recharter package… as is or with modifications. Each unit is asked to select two contact persons within their unit, have them fill out the release form and return it with the Recharter in March.

Council/District Web Site
Unit Contact Release and Permission for 2009/2010

The National Capital Area Council (NCAC), Boy Scouts of America, maintains a World Wide Web site for purposes of publicizing and reporting on its Scouting program and supporting its leaders and membership. Districts of the NCAC also maintain subsidiary "mini" Web sites within the NCAC Web site. The NCAC and Catoctin Mountain District Web sites generally contain contact information (name, phone and email address) for various Council and District volunteers, event coordinators and unit contacts. Such posting is generally beneficial to the Scouting program since it provides ready contact access to those wishing to participate in Council and District meetings and events. It is NCAC's policy that such contact information not be posted without the written permission of the individual whose information is posted. (The NCAC has taken reasonable steps in its Web site design to prevent malicious collection of email addresses from its Web site and trains its Webmasters in methods to further minimize such email address scraping.)

It is the Catoctin Mountain District's desire to ensure that each unit within the District has at least two up-to-date unit contacts listed at all times. These contacts may be any adult who is a trained registered Scouter attached to the unit. The contacts should be qualified to answer all questions about the unit as well as Scouting in general. Your unit's contacts must also agree to have their name, at least one phone number, and one email address available in their contact information.

Unit Type: Pack / Troop / Team / Crew / Ship **Unit Number**: _____ **Town/City**: _____

Meeting Place: _____

Address: _____ **Zip**: _____

Meeting Night: _____ **Meeting Time**: _____

Personal Permission Statements

I hereby certify that I grant Catoctin Mountain District/NCAC Committee of the National Capital Area Council permission to post the information I've supplied below:

Name: _____ **Unit Position**: _____

Email Address: _____Email Address alt):_____

Phone(s): **(h)** ( ) _____-_____ **(w)** ( ) _____-_____ **(c)** ( ) _____-_____

Contact's Signature: _____ **Date**: _____/_____/_____

Name: _____ **Unit Position**: _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address (alt): _____

Phone(s): **(h)** ( ) _____-_____ **(w)** ( ) _____-_____ **(c)** ( ) _____-_____

Contact's Signature: _____ **Date**: _____/_____/_____

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR RE-CHARTER PACKAGE!

GET PREPARED

For the

6th Annual

Appalachian Trail & Catoctin Mountain Dual District

FIRST AID MEET

A Traditional Knowledge & Skills Competition

5:30pm - March 14, 2009

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Frederick Stake Center Gym, Frederick, MD.

SCOUTERS START GETTING YOUR TROOP

PREPARED NOW

ALL Materials &Questions Drawn from Current BSA Handbook and 2007 Edition First Aid Merit Badge Book

JUDGES ARE ALL EMERGENCY CARE RESPONDERS*:*

Including: Military Medics, Fire Department EMT's & Paramedics, Police, ER Nurses and Doctors

Don't wait – The Top Competing Patrols Start Reviewing and Practicing the BSA First Aid Skills Soon……

Crew 394 Holds Award Ceremony By Damon Allen

On Sunday November 9, 2008, twenty-four people, members of Crew 394 and their families attended the Crew's first award ceremony in six years. The Ceremony took place at the Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont. After a long dinner and socializing, the official ceremony began. The Crew's first Ranger, Damon Allen started the ceremony with a brief history and overview of the Ranger Award. John Ruppel, the Crew's Advisor, then presented the Ranger Award to Angela Staffone and Garrett Miller. The two are the Catoctin Mountain District's first and second Rangers. (Damon's award was given in the FSK District.)

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Ruppel presented Garrett the Venturing Gold Award, the second Crew member to receive the award. Before the ceremony concluded, both Angela and Garrett received a rare recognition from the Council. They both received the Venturing Leadership Award for their outstanding leadership and dedication to the Venturing Program.

The Ranger Award is the highest Outdoor recognition that any youth in the Venturing program to earn. It takes an average time of eighteen months to complete. There are eight challenging Core requirements that a Venturer must complete. Apart of the Core requirements, four of eighteen challenging Electives must be completed. Both Ms. Staffone and Mr. Miller are considered highly trained leaders in the outdoor field and are assets to the Scouting programs and to their community.

The Venturing Gold Award is the second highest recognition a youth can receive for his/her leadership and planning within the Crew. In order for a Venturer to earn the award, he/she must create a plan on how to complete the ten challenging requirements. Many of the requirements are focused on personal growth and leadership development.

The Venturing Leadership Award is considered a rare recognition since only two youth and adults for every fifty Crews in the Council can receive the recognition. Twelve months of leadership and demonstration exceptional dedication and outstanding leadership are necessary for the recognition of the award to the candidate.

Venture Crew 394 is a Crew which bases its activities on High Adventure and the outdoors. The Crew is sponsored by the Trail House in downtown Frederick and meets once a month in Thurmont. For information on joining or visiting, young men and women age 14 and older can contact Damon Allen at allenonthelake@comcast.net.

Camp Promotion Materials Online-- "No DVD? No Problem"

Both the Contents and the Videos contained within the new 2009 NCAC Camp Promotional DVD are posted on our Website. Note that the videos are in two formats, but nothing beats the DVD. Every parent and youth member (and potential camper) can now access a *virtual* DVD.

Visit: NCAC Website > Camps > NCAC 2009 Camp Promotion DVD, or
Click: http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=23858&orgkey=1933

Note: None of these video links are on YouTube. The "streaming" videos at the top of the DVD Contents page are samples of a test program our Doubleknot developers are setting up. Once again we are out front as a test Council.

Membership Inventory Time

Each unit is asked to send a current roster of Scouts and leaders to either Debbie Crabb dcrabb@fairchildcontrols.com or Tim Richardson trichardson@boyscouts-ncac.org. If you have any youth applications that have not yet been turned in, please call Tim at 240-529-6188.

District Commissioner's Corner by Randy Johnson

It has recently come to my attention that there is a new position in Scouting, the ScoutParent. This is an official, non-registered position that only requires $1 for insurance purposes and the parent's date of birth. This is a great way to get more parents involved in your program without making new parents feel too overwhelmed.

ScoutParents will be more likely to join you for outings, help out with one-time activities like blue and gold or fund raisers, and your boys will be much less likely to drop out. A roster of ScoutParents is available to the ScoutParents Unit Coordinator, committee chairs, unit leaders, and chartered organization representatives. This roster provides the ScoutParent's name, address, phone number, and email (and conspicuously does *not* include any other personally identifying information).

The ScoutParents Unit Coordinator does what the title says and is a registered position (requires all of the regular forms). Your ScoutParents Unit Coordinator will coordinate the ScoutParents and will have access to the ScoutParents website and all tools available there. They will also receive a copy of Scouting magazine with their registration. National seems to have done a good job of putting this together, and I encourage you to look it over at http://www.scoutparents.org/ . There is also an article mentioning it in Scouting magazine at http://www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0809/a-meet.html.
The position codes, when filling out the paperwork are PS for ScoutParents and PC for ScoutParents Unit Coordinator.

Scouting for Food a Great Success by Ed McDonough, SFF Chairman

Congratulations to the Packs/Troops and all the volunteers who participated in this year's Scouting for Food Drive. We had a record breaking year with approximately 50 TONS collected in non-perishable food items between the Catoctin Mountain and Appalachian Trail Regions.

The break down for the food banks within the region are as follows:

Food Banks	
Brunswick	6471 lbs
Frederick (estimate)	60,000lbs
Jefferson	6425 lbs
Knoxville	320 lbs
Middletown	12600 lbs
Thurmont	5317 items
Emmitsburg	798 lbs
Walkersville	8000 lbs
TOTAL:	**99,931 lbs**

Thank you for supporting those in need in your community. Your efforts will continue to feed families across Frederick for months to come.

Report Scouting For Food Results Online

Each unit is asked to report their Scouting for Food results on the Council Website at http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=370.

Hazardous Weather Training Online by Colby Child, District Training Chairman

This training will be required for leaders conducting outdoor activities starting January 1, 2009. The training, like all "on-line" training, is available through the E-Learning Center accessible through the BSA National web-site www.scouting.org .

Individuals who aspire to do on-line training should, with their membership number (the number at the bottom of their registration/membership cards), establish an on-line ID. From the BSA National Council web-site, Scouts and Scouters should access the "MyScouting" page.

Once on this web page, they will need to set up their personal account. This takes an email address and various personal information items. If possible, they should provide their membership number. Once established, this account will remain active for many uses, including event registrations, like Jamboree.

Once the account is set, they will be directed to the MyScouting web page on which they will find the E-Learning along the left hand side of the page. Selecting this will redirect to the E-Learning web-page on which they will see a set of tabs across the top representing each of the Program areas (CS, BS, etc) with each of the available classes offered through the E-Learning.

On the General tab, the Weather Hazards class can be selected and taken. By selecting the class, or any other, a new separate web page will open with the class material presented thereon. The Weather Hazards class takes about 45 minutes to complete.

As District Training Chairman and as a veteran of the training program, I will offer this one caution to all leaders who go through "on-line" training: This format is convenient and serves to provide information in a 1-way direction. All courses offered on-line are also offered in seminar format with real Scouters as participants and instructors. I strongly encourage leaders AND parents to engage the District Training Committee to schedule special sessions in order to learn in a more personal and interactive format.

Catoctin Mountain District
presents the
Fifth Annual Boy Scout
Bowling Tournament
on
Monday, December 29, 2008
10:00 a.m.
at
Terrace Lanes
12 West College Terrace
Frederick, Md
Cost: $7.50

Each scout will play two games of Ten Pin bowling.

To register and for more information:
Shawn Youngberg
Phone: 240-344-7733
email: shawnyoungberg@comcast.net

Please register by December 20