

TROOP 608 BUGLE



Troop 608 www.T608BSA.org

July, August, October 2003

FROM THE SCOUTMASTER...

What a camping extravaganza: Bronson Field, OA Ordeal, Euchee, Daniel Boone, Northern Tier and more!!! Troop 608 isn't sitting still. We've spent almost 600 nights camping since our last Court of Honor, in states as far away as North Carolina, New Mexico Minnesota and even Canada!

Bronson Field was wonderful. Thanks to Dr. Beau Biggs. The turkeys turned out great and we all had a terrific time getting to know our 608 Scouting Family. Thanks again to all the adults who helped pull it off.

Betsy Werre was our acting scoutmaster at Euchee, with 30 great guys. They brought home the "TOP TROOP" award. Congratulations and thanks to Betsy and the rest of the ASMS- Jim Matson, Harvey Jones, Bob Godwin and Greg & Cindy Farrar.

Daniel Boone is still one of my favorite summer camps. Our guys did wonderfully and enjoyed one of the most beautiful places around, earning the "CLEAN CAMP" award, the top troop award at the camp. Thanks goes to Jim, Kevin, Dan, Kim, Kelly, Ron, Betsy, Chris, Cheryl and Michelle for taking their "vacation" with our boys.

We still have a couple of Scouts out there enjoying special adventures at Philmont and Northern Tier through the OA.

When the boys earned 100% campsite inspection I coined a phrase "You are my heroes." Boys, you truly are my heroes. You've learned, you've worked hard and you've had fun, but most of all you've become more confident in yourselves. I see it. And it makes me very proud. It also makes your parents proud...
Your Scoutmaster, Randy Werre

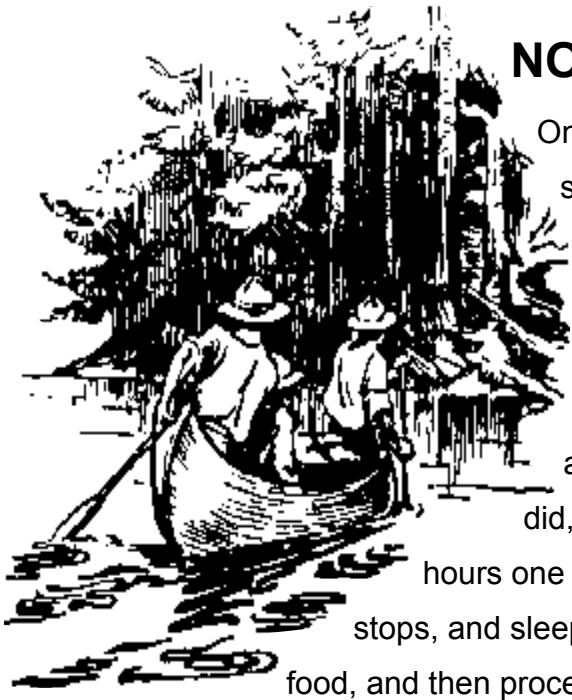
TROOP EQUIPMENT UPDATE

As the new equipment chairman for the troop, I would first like to thank Chris Hrbacek for his years of service as our adult "Q" quartermaster. This is indeed a thankless job but also an important one.

We have some exciting changes already made and more coming in regards to troop equipment. Mr. Jerry Gudinas has taken on the role of assistant equipment chairman and has already been a tremendous help. If you have not noticed, the new stairs leading up to the 2 rooms above the trailer carport have been completed, along with the redecking of the upstairs porch. Thanks to Dan Danforth, Dave Mayall, and numerous other adult volunteers for helping with this project.

All troop equipment has been transferred out of the house and into the 2 rooms above the carport. In addition, a troop refrigerator has been donated and is installed upstairs for the storage of leftover perishable items. Thanks to Mr. Werre for this donation!

We are in the process of setting up the equipment in the 2 rooms upstairs. The left (south) side will become the Quartermasters Store, where patrols will be able to go "shopping" for food items to use on campouts. The right (north) side will be the equipment issue/return area. Both sides will have check-out counters where the items will be issued and/or returned. It is our goal to have all the equipment organized and set up in the new rooms in time for the August campout. Stay tuned; there is much more to come!



NORTHERN TIER TRIP

On Friday, June 27, 13 scouts and leaders from Troop 608, 3 scouts and leaders from Troop 106, and 8 scouts and leaders from Troop 11 set out on an awesome high adventure trip to the Northern Tier, specifically the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota.

The trip was an unbelievable experience for all who attended. Words cannot describe much of what we saw and did, but here is an overview. The bus ride alone was about 32 hours one way, which provided time for movie watching, snacking, meal stops, and sleeping. On arrival at the base, we were issued crew equipment,

food, and then proceeded to have a shakedown of our gear, which ensured we were taking the right stuff but not taking the wrong stuff.

Early on Sunday morning, June 29, the 3 crews loaded themselves and their gear into their canoes and paddled their own ways for the adventures of a lifetime. During the 8 days in the wilderness, crews learned how to portage (carry gear from one lake to another), cook, camp, and fish in the wilderness areas of the U.S. and Canada. Encountering wind, rain, storms, scrapes, scratches, sore muscles, and even a bruised hand, we all made it through, none the worse for wear, and all more sure of ourselves and more confident in what we could do. Following a well-deserved shower and time in the sauna, we all headed home, arriving on Tuesday afternoon, July 8. What had seemed impossible only a week earlier had been accomplished as a team.

If you would like to hear more, listen at the Court of Honor or talk to any of the participants who attended this amazing trip.

I highly recommend this high adventure trip for all of our Scouts. What a great opportunity to explore some of the most beautiful, pristine, wilderness areas in the world.

Troop 608 comprised two crews: Crew "F" consisted of Crew Leader Alex Stone, participants Joe Harvill, Thomas Couch, Rob Godwin, Chris Dampier, Patrick Ward, and adult advisors Jeff Stone and Jim Matson. Crew "G" consisted of Crew Leader Jay Schmitz, participants Ross Gillette, Matthew Jones, Michael Raymond and Morgan Raymond from Troop 106 in Navarre, with adult advisors Ron Gillette, Jim Schmitz, and Mike Raymond (Troop 106). We also had a crew "I" comprised of members of Troop 11 from Gulf Breeze.

--Jim Matson

Badges Earned at Summer Camp

Troop 608 has traveled to Camp Euchee on the shores of Lake Alaqua and to Camp Daniel Boone near the Smoky Mountains. Scouts worked (and played) very hard in their merit badge classes. Over 110 merit badges were earned. At Euchee, boys earned: Archery, Camping, Electronics & Electricity, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, First Aid, Fishing & Fly Fishing, Indian Lore, Leatherwork, Orienteering, Radio, Reptile and Amphibian, Rowing, Shotgun Shooting, Swimming, Wood Carving. And at Daniel Boone, these merit badges were earned- Archery, Art, Basketry, Camping, Canoeing, Climbing, Communications, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, Fingerprinting, First Aid, Leatherwork, Lifesaving, Orienteering, Pulp & Paper, Rifle Shooting, Rowing, Shotgun, and Wilderness Survival. Although many merit badges were earned, many boys came home with partial merit badges. For completion, see your patrol advisor for the next step in earning those badges.



Way to Go Peter!

Eagle Scout Peter Simms, one of our Pedro Patrol members, has been selected to compete in the Tour de l' Abitibi (the junior Tour d' France) in Canada this month. He was one of 150 youths from around the world to be invited and to qualify for this 6-day 370-mile race. Good luck to you Peter.

Thank You Notes

A special thank you goes to one of our parents who sent in a donation to the troop. "In appreciation for all the many beneficial things that are done for the Boys Scouts in Troop 608." A great big thanks for the support!

And a heartfelt thanks goes to David Simms. He is the craftsman who builds, carves & paints the camp chairs that our SPL and Eagle Scouts are awarded at these Courts of Honors. He puts in many hours in creating these special mementos that are greatly appreciated and treasured by those who receive them.. Thanks Dave!

ALL BOYS DESERVE A WELL-TRAINED LEADER.....

Wood Badge for the 21st Century will be held at Spanish Trail Scout Reservation on November 7, 8, & 9 and December 5, 6 & , 2003. Its focus is on leadership, not out-of-door skills. Through the methods of Scouting you will learn to recognize the contemporary leadership concepts and apply them as a member of a successful team (your Wood Badge patrol). And besides being a wonderful learning experience that will benefit you in the one hour of Scouting per week, it will enhance the other hours of your day as well! See Betsy Werre for more information and an invitation.

Q's Query

What famous trail goes through Wesser NC?

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS NEEDED:

Now that the Scouts are on the merit badge trail, we need counselors for working with the boys. Many of you attended the Merit Badge Counseling session held this spring. Be sure to follow up and sign up to be a counselor! We are in need for counselors for these merit badges:

Athletics	Fishing
Canoeing	Medicine
Climbing	Oceanography
Coin Collecting	Rowing
Cycling	Whitewater

Even if you have not attended the training or the merit badge of your interest is not on this list- TROOP 608 WANTS YOU.

BSA Troop 608 Bugle

Send Change of Address to
P. Hrbacek, editor
2800 Nagel Dr.
Pensacola FL 32503

Sacred Heart Lenten Fish Fry

Members of Troop 608 participated in the Sacred Heart Lenten Fish Fry's held on each Friday during the season of Lent as a troop fundraiser. Our troop members served food, carried plates and cleaned up after each event where over 250 Catfish meals were served. After each event our members feasted on Catfish, Cheese Grits, Slaw, Baked Beans and Buddy Bread. A tip of the Troop 608 hat to:

Tim Hrbacek
Jordan Harris
Ross Gillette
Jay Schmitz
Tommy Jacobson
Drew Cavalier
Alex Thompson
John Steele
Patrick Ward

And Adult Scouters:
Chris Hrbacek
Mike Thompson
Krista Harris

We look forward to supporting this event next year.

Chris Hrbacek

Calendar

August	15-17	Itchitucknee Float Trip
	25	Troop Elections
Sept.		Torreya Backpacking Trip Jackson Trail Backpacking Trip
	12-14	OA Fall Pow Wow
Oct.	24-27	Fall Camporee
Nov.		Pine Mountain Expedition
	7-9	Woodbadge at Euchee
Dec.		USS Alabama Planetarium Overnight
	5-7	Woodbadge Euchee
	6	Banquet Ecumenical Prayer Service

Service Service Recognized

Members of Troop 608 formed the Color Guard for the interdenominational prayer service conducted in April in support of our Troop in Iraq. This was conducted at the Cathedral of the Sacred with over 500 in attendance. Special thanks to: Tim Hrbacek, Mark Etheridge, Nick Miller, Daniel Danforth, and ASM Chris Hrbacek

The efforts were well recognized and appreciated by the community.