

TROOP 608 BUGLE



The Newsletter for Troop 608

October-December 2002

Jim Alive and Kicking

Dear Troop 608 Family,

I just want to thank you for the "apartment warming" party you guys threw for me before I left. I was really honored to have received so many nice gifts, gift cards, and kind words from all of you. You all really made my move a lot easier and also gave me lots of great memories (and cool stuff) to take with me to Birmingham. By the way, we have a "Super Target" up here, 3 minutes from my apartment. Pretty cool!

I also want you to know that you're not rid of me yet... I've been asked to be in charge of "608 North" operations. So far, that entails doing some website updating and also checking out nice camping spots up this way, such as Oak Mountain and of course our favorite, Odum/Pinhoti Trail and Cheaha State Park.

If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact me; my contact information is below.

I'll see you soon!

Yours in Scouting,
Jim Matson
6011 Colony Park Drive
Birmingham, AL 35243
(205) 968-5845
jmatson73@charter.net

Our Newest Eagle Takes Wing



An Eagle Court of Honor for Joe Harvill will be conducted on Saturday, October 19th at 10:00 AM. It will be held at St. Christopher's at our regular meeting area in the Parish Hall. All members of Troop

608 and their families are cordially invited to attend. Scouts are requested to wear your full Class A uniform. Please RSVP by October 5th, if possible, by either phoning 934-1144 or by e-mailing to wharvill@aol.com.

The Harvill Family would like to express our appreciation for the manner that Joe has been welcomed into Troop 608. He has felt a part of the Troop from the beginning and wants to continue, as his schedule permits, to be an active part of the Troop and to be of assistance to both the Scouts and Scouters.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Werre our Scoutmaster, and to Mr. Matson who was the Scoutmaster when Joe arrived. Your support and encouragement has meant a lot to our family.

Yours in Scouting, Joe, Lori and Bill Harvill

Thumbs Up to NOAC 2002

by Craig Bonfield

reprinted from the
Osprey without
permission

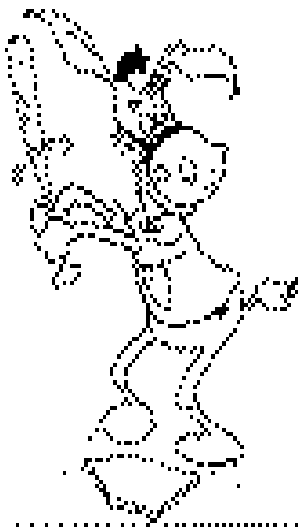


I give NOAC 2002 a big thumbs up! I had no idea what this thing was all about. At first, I was just coming for the patch trading, but after just a few hours and one of the best shows I have ever seen (besides the 2001 Yustaga Conclave Show) I am convinced that will be one of the most educational and exciting Scouting events that I have ever been to. I encourage anyone who has never been to snag a spot next time. I guarantee it will be worth it! (The next NOAC will be in Ames Iowa, '04)

Atten, Hut!!

Five boys from Troop 608 performed the flag ceremony at the Family Expo this month. Mike Thompson was the ASM in charge. Alex Thompson did an excellent job calling the orders.

THANKS for Pitching In



Mr. Hrbacek and Mr. Kim Sheldon, Cubmaster for Pack 608, would like to thank Chris Welch, Patrick Ward, Jay Schmitz, Ryan Patton, Alex Thompson for their help with School Night for Scouting. While the adults were busy discussing business, these scouts kept the young boys successfully entertained.

Remarks from Robert

It was the perfect evening to denote Scouting's greatest of achievements. It began with an excerpt from the beloved piece of bluegrass music "Dueling Banjos" composed by Eric Weissberg, from the movie "Deliverance." That was to lighten the mood a bit to this very honorable night. But things got a little bit more serious when Robert was pinned with his Eagle Award and was named Troop 608's Fifty-second Eagle Scout. Then it was back to laughter as some of Robert's finer moments were brought to light, such as "Talking Tokens" and other stories. The night concluded with a bagpiper playing the "Marine's Hymn" as the colors were retired. Now a hanks to the Scouts and Adult leaders for their contribution of time in making the Eagle Court of Honor as memorable as it was and to all the other scouts and adults who were in the audience. I would now like to make a few personal reflections on being an Eagle Scout. An Eagle Court of Honor is the time when an Eagle Scout can look back on his scouting career and be proud to say that he has done his best because if the Eagle isn't proud of his achievement who should be. A Scout must put forth every effort to strive for his own personal best, going the extra mile. Attaining the rank of Eagle is not meant to be easy. If it was then it wouldn't be as highly respected as it is. That is why each of the branches of the Armed Services will promote an Eagle Scout one rank higher if and when he decides to take the extra mile and serve his country by enlisting in the military. Robert has decided to take that extra mile and enlisted into the United States Marine Corps Reserve and has already been promoted from Private to Private First Class. And so now I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of the assistant scoutmasters, Mr. Matson and Mr. Werre for helping me achieve the goal that I had as a Cub Scout. My life has been changed for the better because of scouting and many of the things that I learned through campouts, hikes and merit badges I will carry over into my adult life. October 6, 2002, I will be leaving for Parris Island, SC for Recruit Training to become a Marine. I will not forget all the good times that I had as a Scout in Troop 608.
Eagle Scout

Robert Lee Carroll Belford

Meeting Place Change

Troop 608 will not be using the choir room at St. Christopher's in the future. We have been blamed for "vandalism" (graffiti and a broken pillow). Scouts respect another's property, and if you were responsible for this event, we expect you to be honest about it and make arrangements with Mr. Stone for fixing/replacing the damage.

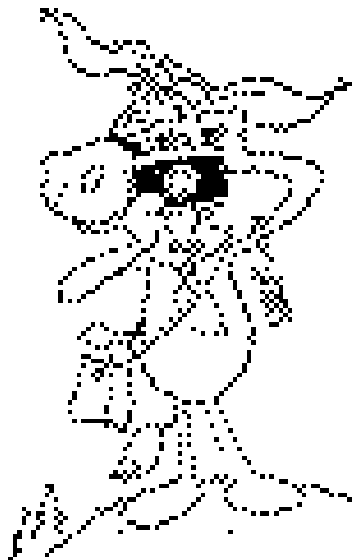
She's Sew Fine

The Monday before each Court of Honor, the "Patch Ladies" will come to the meeting with their sewing machines. For a donation of 50 cents a patch, they will make sure your sash and shirt are properly decked out. Who knows, if You're polite enough, they just might teach you how to do it yourself!!

Charter Chat

by the "church lady"

Msg. Mike has given the troop permission to use the building over the car port at the Scout Hut for additional storage. However, before we can do that, we will need to make some major renovations. If you have an eye for engineering, and would like to design a bruise-free stairway, and an easy access driveway, or if you can get donations of needed supplies, we'd like you to volunteer to be the foreman. Everyone who can swing a hammer without hitting your thumb (or a raccoon) keep your eyes open and your ears perked for more information..



ADVANCEMENT

by Erin Hernandez, and Betsy Werre

Wow, Scouts in Troop 608 were really working hard this summer. They earned 76 merit badges in a wide variety of areas, including Archeology, Fish and Wildlife,

Archery, Fishing, Astronomy, Geology, Basketry, Golf, Camping, Indian Lore Canoeing, Lifesaving, Cit in the Community, Orienteering, Cit in the nation, Personal Management, Cit in the World, Rifle Shooting, Communications, Soil and Water, Emergency Prep, Space Exploration, Environmental Science, Swimming, Family Life, Wilderness Survival, First Aid, and Wood Carving. Quite a list!

In addition, the following Scouts advanced to the rank of:

Tenderfoot— Daniel Danforth, Travis Hancock, Nash Kelly, Colin Verge, Jay Wilkerson

2nd Class- Sam Ronan, Chris Werre

Star- Tim Hrbacek

Bronze Palm- Doug Watson

Special Awards go to Colin Fitzgerald and Sam Ronan for completing the Mile Swim and to Robert Godwin and Joe Harvill for earning the Boy Scout World Conservation award.

Wouldn't you like to be a part of this advancement? At the next Roundtable, Betsy will be presenting a session on "Merit Badge Counseling: Myth or Truth?" Roundtable sessions are always on the first Thursday of the month, so in October it will be October 3 at the Troop 3 Hut on the Cokesbury campus on Ninth Avenue at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in becoming a merit badge counselor, call Betsy Werre at 434-2700 to get more information. Training sessions will be held soon for new merit badge counselors and for those interested in serving on Boards of Review for rank advancement.





Called to Serve

The Council office has asked our troop to perform a service project at Azalea Trace

Retirement Center, Sept. 24. We will be acting as waiters, carrying trays and assisting diners. The Council asked us because of our good uniform policy. We were told that, in their minds, our troop represents scouting very, very well.



OA Update

Troop 608 Order of the Arrow

members have been doing a lot lately. Craig Bonfield, Monty Haight, Joe Harvill, David Hrbacek, Doug Watson, Ted Werre, and Jim Matson attended the 2002 National Order of the Arrow Conference in July along with other members from the lodge. The event was full of training and competitions ranging from Native American dance to Monopoly to Soccer, where members of 608 helped the lodge to place in the top 8 teams in the nation.

The Yustaga Lodge Fall Powwow was held September 13-15, 2002. Although there was apparently some sort of storm, 608 members still came out for a weekend of fun and fellowship. There were training cells in the morning and we even had a water carnival at the waterfront, in the rain! Lodge elections were also held this weekend and Doug Watson and Ted Werre were elected as Lodge Vice-Chiefs. Taylor Biggs and Chris Hrbacek sealed their membership by earning their Brotherhood. In addition, Doug Watson was called out to receive the Vigil Honor, the highest honor in the Order of the Arrow.

The next Panzacola Chapter meeting will be held on September 26 at the Troop 3 Scout Hut. I hope to see all 608 arrowmen there, where we will be electing chapter officers for the

Answer: Mississippi, Arkansas

Up Coming Events

Sept. 20-22 Wakulla Springs Camping at Walwood, Tallahassee District BSA Camp on Lake Seminole.

Sept 24 Azalea Trace Retirement Center Service Project.

Oct. 6 ASM and Committee Meeting (date changed from Oct. 13)

Oct. 19 10am Eagle Court, Joe Harvill

Oct. 25-27 Fall Camporee. We will be working with Troop 409, the special needs troop, and will be working on the disabilities badge. in addition to our normal events.

Nov. 8-11 Pinhote (possible)

Dec. 6-7 USS Alabama. Open to Webeloes II.

Dec. 14th Mistletoe Give Away at WalMart, Creighton Road, 8 am to 5 PM. We need a chairperson, pickers and sellers. Each year, we harvest mistletoe from local trees, tie it up with ribbons, and give it away in exchange for donations. This is a very successful fundraiser, and a great way to spread Christmas cheer. Contact Peggy Ward if you can help.

Note: the March 22 meeting has been changed to March 29.

Adult Leadership Retreat tba

Q's Queries:

On our trip to Camp Orr in Northwest Arkansas, How many rivers did we cross that are also the names of States?

New Chairs

Ron Gillette will replace Jim Matson as the new outdoor chair. Peggy Ward will once again serve as Popcorn Kernel. Evie Dampier is taking over the trading post. A new treasurer is needed to replace Mrs. Matson. Anyone interested in getting involved, please contact Jeff Stone or Randy Werre. We need help with planning trips.

Historian's Log

Dear Mom,

We are having a great time here at Camp Orr in Arkansas. Our scoutmaster told us to write to our parents in case you saw the flood on TV and are worried. We are OK. Only one of our tents and 2 sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily, none of us got drowned because we were up on the mountain looking for Daniel when it happened. Oh yes, please call his mother and tell her he is OK. He can't write because of the cast.



I got to ride in one of the search and rescue jeeps. It was neat. We never would have found him in the dark if it hadn't been for the lightning.

Scoutmaster Werre got mad at Daniel for going on a hike alone without telling anyone. Daniel said he did tell him, but it was during the fire, so he probably didn't hear him. Did you know that if you put gas on a fire, the gas can will blow up? The wet wood didn't burn, but one of the tents did. Also, some of our clothes. Thomas is going to look weird until his hair grows back.

We will be home on Saturday if Mr. Hrbacek get the van fixed. It wasn't his fault about the wreck. The brakes worked OK when we left. Mr. Hrbacek said that a van that old, you have to expect something to break down; that's probably why the troop can't get insurance. We think it's a neat van. He doesn't care if we get it dirty, and if it's hot, sometimes he lets us ride on the fenders. It gets pretty hot with 20 people in a van. He let us take turns riding in the trailer until the highway patrolman stopped and talked to us.

Assistant Scoutmaster Ronan is a neat guy. Don't worry, he is a good driver. In fact, he is teaching Jonathan how to drive on the mountain roads where there isn't any traffic. All we ever see up here are logging trucks.

This morning, all of the guys were diving off the rocks and swimming out in the lake. Mr. Danforth wouldn't let Adam because he can't swim, and Jay was afraid he would sink because of his cast, so he let them take the canoe across the lake. It was great. You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood.

Guess what? We have all passed our first aid merit badges. When Sam dove in the lake and cut his arm, we got to see how a tourniquet works. Patrick and I threw up, Mr. Belford said it probably was just food poisoning from the leftover chicken. He said they got sick that way with food they ate in prison. I'm so glad he got out and became our assistant scoutmaster. He said he sure figured out how to get things done better while he was doing his time.

I have to go now. We are going to town to mail our letters, and buy bullets. Don't worry about anything. We are fine.

Love, Chris

Troop 608 Historian

P.S. How long has it been since I had a tetanus shot?

A Scoutmaster's Minute by Randy Werre

Allot has happened since a I took over as scoutmaster and since the last newsletter. Jim not only went back to school but decided to seek out his Yankee roots by moving North. (Only to Alabama) The troop has grown to an all-time high of 71 boy's. we've had some great outings and adventures.

Sea Base; Camp Orr; Pickens; Euchee; and this weekend Wakula Springs, all great outings that will live with each of us that attended. We've conducted a JLT with a side of service work; an Eagle project at Workman Middle School, and drew applause for a flag ceremony at Family Expo.

We're looking forward to more adventures such as: Service projects for The Cathedral; Eagle project; Serving at an assisted living facility;; Outings to Cheeha State park for backpacking; Troop 608 hosting the 2002 fall camporee "Night Moves Deux"; and Waking up on the Battleship "Alabama" on Pearl harbor day. Not to mention the start of work ups for Our High Adventure Program at Northern Tier and 100 miles on the Appalachian trail.

When I had a little spare time off from my 1 hour per week, I spent a week in training at "Philmont"(Scouting Paradise). There I was reminded that this program is for and by the boys. With that, I'm trying to let each and every boy take a lead in telling us what they want. They have a great chance to do just that in the upcoming "Planning Conference". I have several other ideas that I'll try to implement in the near future. Don't get me wrong the training was really wasn't a burden but a great adventure. Mrs. Werre and Chris went with me on the trip. Mrs. Werre attended training on "Advancement," which she

will be presenting at the next Boy Scout Roundtable. Chris ate ice cream at the "Tooth of Time Traders"; drank "Root Beer" at "Abreu", and hiked the "backcountry" to "Miners Park" Spending a night in Philmont's backcountry.

I'd like to thank each and every adult that has stepped up to help me keep Troop 608 the premier troop in the area if not in the country. You can't

realize how great it makes me feel when I here someone say "I'll take care of that." I'd like to thank the boys for giving me the opportunity to work with." I'd like to thank the boys for giving me the opportunity to work

with them. What they don't know is that every time I see them learn or accomplish something or even just have a good time I get my paycheck. We've got room for all you adults on the "Payroll".



THANK YOU ALL!!!

Randy Werre, "YOUR" Scoutmaster