

SMOKE SIGNALS



April 2006

Volume 1, Issue 8

Inside This Issue

1

Isaac Davis Trail

1

New First Class Requirement

2

Getting to Know You

2

PLC Meeting

3

We Have a Winner

3

Pinewood Derby

3

Swim Night

3

Scoutmasters Minute

4

Fun and Games

Isaac Davis Trail

On Saturday April 22nd, we will leave for the Patriot's Day Celebration in and around Concord MA.

We will be camping out on Saturday night and then going on the hike on Sunday. Some of the highlights are:

- Saturday afternoon is free to patch trade, work on cooking etc...
- Campfire ceremony 7:30PM Saturday
- Hike begins at 7:00AM Sunday
- The 7-mile hike should be completed by noon

The Isaac Davis Trail is an official Boy Scout Historic Trail sponsored by the Scouters of The Isaac Davis Trail. It is the same trail used by Captain Isaac Davis of the Acton Minutemen in their march to Concord where "the shot heard 'round the world' was fired.

The trail is seven miles long and takes 2-3 hours to cover. It begins at the home of Captain Davis where the original Minutemen met and ends at the Old North Bridge in Concord. Most of the route is on paved road. Only small stretches are cross country.

We will have guide books about the trail and the historical significance. Along the trail, you will be answering questions about the various landmarks that we will pass.

DAVIS, Isaac†, patriot, born in 1745 ; died in Concord, :Mass., 19 April 1775. He was captain of the Acton minutemen, and led them against the British at Concord bridge, saying: " I have not a man that is afraid to go." He was

(Continued on page 2)

New First Class Requirement

Every year the Boy Scouts revise some number of merit badges in an attempt to keep them current and fresh. Sometimes the technology changes like in computers. Others get changed to add new requirements, such as adding a first aid requirement to all sports related badges.

Recently a new requirement for First Class was added. This was done in an attempt to recruit new Scouts to troops.

Beginning January 1, 2006, a new requirement will be added to the First Class rank in Boy Scouting that tests the candidate's persuasive communications skills and will help make Scouting available to more boys.

It reads:

"Tell someone who is eligible to join Boy Scouts, or an inactive Boy Scout, about your troop's activities. Invite him to a troop outing, activity, service project, or meeting. Tell him how to join, or encourage the inactive Boy Scout to become active."

Scouts beginning work on this rank after January 1, 2006, must complete the new requirement. Scouts currently working on this rank do not have to complete the new requirement as long as all current First Class rank requirements are fulfilled prior to June 30, 2006.

What does this mean to you? If you finish all of the current requirements for First Class before June 30, 2006, this change does not affect you. Otherwise, you must complete the new requirement. Talk to Mr. O'Brien or Mr. Lynch with any questions. ■

Troop 119
Peabody MA
Www.119peabody.org

Getting to Know You—Mr. O'Brien

Starting this month, in each of the few upcoming issues of *Smoke Signals*, we will be spotlighting one of the leaders of the Troop. This is just meant to provide a little insight into the lives of the leaders. Maybe you will learn something interesting about the leaders either in or outside of scouting. What better way to start, than with Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien was born at a very young age, wait, let's not go that far back. Here are some quick facts:

- Was a member of Troop 88 in Peabody
- Earned his Eagle Scout in 1972
- Worked as a CIT at Camp Norshoco and in the Dining hall at Indian Pond.
- Served as lodge Chief in the Amisqui Lodge of the OA
- Went to the 1973 National Jamboree
- Earned his bachelor's degree in Forest Recreation from the University of Maine at Orono and Fort Kent.
- Earned a Masters in Business, also from University of Maine
- Owned a liquor store
- Has worked at Brooksby Farm for 27 years. Currently the manager of the farm.
- President of Topsfield Fair, President of Essex County Fruit Growers
- Cubmaster Award, Cub Scouter Key, Scouter's Training Award, Scoutmaster Award of Merit, OA Vigil Honor
- Cubmaster for 5 years, Scoutmaster for 6 years
- Shu Shu Ga Trained
- Woodbadge NE-I-221
- Scoutmaster for National Jamboree Troop 118, 2005

When asked what was his most fond memory of Scouting as a youth, Mr. O'Brien answered that it had to be the canoe trip on the Allagash. ■

(Continued from page 1)

Isaac Davis Trail

killed by the first volley. Bancroft describes him as "stately in his person, a man of few words; earnest even to solemnity." His body, with those of two of his company, was brought to his home and laid in the bedroom of his wife, from whom he had parted only a few hours before. The three men "were followed to the village graveyard by a concourse of the neighbors from miles around." Mrs. Davis lived to a great age. When she was over ninety, "the United States in congress bethought them to pay honors to her husband's martyrdom."

Each Scout will need to complete a medical form. This form will be the simple form, no need for a doctor's signature. A permission slip will also be needed. These forms will be distributed at an upcoming Troop meeting, and will also be available on the web site.

All Scouts have been asked to wear "Class A" uniform shirts at all times. ■

†<http://www.famousamericans.net/isaacdavis/>

PLC Meeting

On Monday, March 13th, a PLC meeting was held. The usual suspects were in attendance. The theme for the next few meetings was discussed. It was decided to really focus on advancement, either rank or finishing up some of the partial merit badges out there. Everyone at the PLC was given an assignment to help with the advancement.

Chris, Patrick and Robbie have made presentations about different topics related to cooking. They reviewed the First Class cooking requirements. Hopefully those still needing to get these requirements signed-off learned about the topics and will be ready to talk to one of the leaders about the requirements.

We also discussed working on merit badges during meetings. So, Mr. Early is working on Nuclear Science and Mr. Garbenis is working on Coin Collecting. Mr. Desmond will soon be helping to finish Emergency Preparedness.

There will be a Court-of-Honor coming up soon. Talk to Mr. O'Brien if you are close to finishing rank requirements. ■

We Have a Winner!



As incentive to get Scouts to try to sell more popcorn, the council had a contest. Each Scout that filled a full sheet with popcorn orders had his name entered in a drawing for a laptop computer. One laptop was given away in each of the five Yankee Clipper districts. Well, our own Joey O. won for the Aquila District.

The laptop will be presented to him at an upcoming meeting. ■

Swimming Night

The turnout at the swim night at the Paul Lydon Aquatic Center was slim. Ok, we only had one Scout there to join the Cubs. Maybe next time there will be more interest, or fewer conflicts. The Cub Scouts had a great time. ■

Pinewood Derby

Recently the Cubs held the Pinewood Derby race in the school gym. As always, it was a noisy but exciting night for the Cubs. We did have some difficulties with the track that lead to more than one car jumping lanes.

Thank you to Patrick O., Patrick L., Chris G., Jessie S., Chris A., and Morris M. for their help. ■

Summer Camp

Don't forget, we will be leaving for summer camp on Sunday July 16th, mark your calendars now.

Scoutmaster's Minute

Once there was a man who said some things about a friend that were neither true nor complimentary. Afterwards, he felt ashamed and went to his friend and apologized. Still, as he walked around town, he could hear the false words being repeated. Troubled by this, he went to the wisest man in the community.

"How can I undo this terrible wrong that I did", he asked the wise man. The wise man thought for a moment and said, "Bring me a feather pillow." The man did so and quickly returned. "Now go to the hilltop outside of town, slit open the pillowcase, and shake it until all of the feathers are gone." Again, the man quickly did as he was instructed. When he returned to the wise man, the wise man said, "Now go and pick up every single feather and place them all back into the pillowcase." The man replied, "But that's impossible. There is no way that I can find all those feathers and put them back." "Indeed," answered the wise man, "and there is no way to gather back the words that you cast into the air either."

And so it is. Once we speak, we can never gather the words back into the pillowcase. So it is important to think about what we are going to say before we cast our words into the wind. ■

About the Scoutmaster's Minute:

As much as we would like to take credit for these words of wisdom each month, we can not. The editors of *Smoke Signals* (Ok, Mr. Lynch) searches books and the internet for interesting SM minutes. He did write the one about Monti, the Italian bobsled racer who gave a bolt to a competitor.

Month Events

April 5th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

April 10th
6:30 St. John's
PLC Meeting

April 12th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

April 19th
School Vacation, No Meeting

April 22nd and 23rd
Isaac Davis Trail hike and
campout

April 26th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

May 19th—21st
Aquila District Spring Cam-
paree

Always look to the calendar
on web site for the latest
schedule!

www.119peabody.org

Fun and Games

In last month's "Fun and Games" you were presented with a few semaphore puzzles to solve. How did you do? Well, the answers are below. Remember, the theme for the spring camporee will be communication.

Be prepared

There is no

t eaching to

compare with

example

Leave this world

all it takes better

than you found it
