

Boy Scout Troop 82



Newsletter Sept., 2007

www.troop82-fc.org/

Scoutmaster's Musings. As I reflect on what is going on my sixth month as Scoutmaster of Troop 82, I can only hope that the scouts in this troop learned a fraction as much as I have during this time. I can confidently say that while my formal adult scout training was an excellent base to allow me to step up to my new role, I quickly learned that it is a relatively thin base and that this job is one where the best teachers are my peer-leaders, our most involved parents and most importantly those boys we all care so much about. It would be easy to let my many mistakes shake my confidence but Troop 82's great scouts and our ever supportive adults have helped me not only learn from and improve from those mistakes but to take heart and try new things along the way. I look very much forward to the next six months and hope that as an adult leadership team, we continue to grow and expand and that our scouts have an even more fulfilling experience. Thank you all for this awesome experience.

In addition to a couple of shorter hikes and backpacks, Troop 82 pulled together two week-long summer scouting activities this year. A few scouts attended both. T. Rudd

Summer Camp, June 24-30. We assembled on Sunday, June 24 for the 3-hour long, hot drive to the camp, nearly two hours northwest of Cheyenne, Wyoming. ASM Jack Moore led the planning for this event. His work was greatly appreciated by scouts and adults, who all had a good time.

A total of 21 scouts from Troop 82 completed a significant quantity of merit badge course work, which will take our Awards Chairperson, Chris Wolf, a long time to hand out later this month! Some scouts participated in a small fix-up project for our camp site and others contributed to a significant conservation effort to help the larger camp recover from a big forest fire some 5 or so years ago. For play, we hosted Troop 188 for a hearty game of Capture the Flag, participated in some great camp hikes, including the Night Hawk Hike and hiking Black Mountain. Everyone enjoyed the Camp Fire programs, especially the closing MC'ed by Life scout (comedian), Alex Layman. Best of all, the whole group made it back in good shape, with only three scouts forgetting their gear (thank goodness for phones and hardworking CLP staff who came down later!). T. Rudd

RAMS. RAMS (rifles, arrows, muzzleloaders, shotguns) Specialty Camp at BDSR had 26 boys that shot 8000 12 gauge shells, 13000 22-caliber rounds, 550 50-caliber muzzleloader balls, 1300 paint balls, 400 9mm rounds and a lot of arrows in 5 days. The Council is signing up boys for next year's RAMS now. There will be room for only 32 boys in 2008. R. Sievers

High adventure canoe trip, July 13-23. Eleven Scouts and 4 adults ventured to the Northern Tier High Adventure Base near Atikokan, Ontario for a 9-day canoe trek through the Canadian wilderness. This was an amazing trip in an area of where one can paddle for days without seeing another person. We split into two crews and went in different directions. One crew just barely reached the 75 mile mark while the other did a few extra. The weather was perfect except for one afternoon squall, and fishing for bass, pike and walleye was good. This was a truly high adventure trip in which the scouts did a great job of working together. These few words can't do the trip justice. J. Schiager

Rawah backpacking/fishing, Aug 11-14. This trip turned out to be one of our smaller adventures for the summer. We still managed to convince 7 scouts and 3 adult leaders that backpacking in hot summer weather was a good idea! With some planning assistance from Jerry Schiager, we went in by way of McIntyre Creek, a gentle effort, and a good idea, since we had three first year scouts along. We had a late start, which led to a fast backpack into our campsite at Hausmer Park, 4.9 miles in from the Trail Head.

Most scouts elected to fish (small but hungry brook trout) and/or explore the next day. Others choose to hike the 10 mile round trip to/from Ute Pass. Everyone had fun, at least until the backpack out to the cars the next morning.

Three first year scouts (Nate Trout, Wes Borden, & Cameron Rudd) not only completed this trip in style but Nate and Wes did so without a parent along. I was very pleased with the level of autonomy displayed by all and especially proud of the teamwork performed to get things done. I would also like to point out that our most senior scout, Richard Maxwell, did an outstanding job of supporting younger scouts as they learned to stream fish, etc.

Fall Court of Honor. The fall Court of Honor will be held at the church on 24 Sept. Be there at 6:45pm for a 7:00 start.

Timby trip. Recent Troop 82 Eagle Scout Ben Timby is no doubt putting some of his scouting experience to use as he bicycles solo to Alaska this summer. As of mid-August, Ben was in Skagway, AK, having covered 3050 miles. For details of Ben's experiences, find a reference to his blog on the Troop 82 web site.

Eagle Projects. In addition to the four recent Troop 82 Eagle scouts mentioned on the opposite side of this newsletter, several other scouts are nearing completion of their Eagle requirements. Ted Bulik-Hocum recently completed his project - reconstruction of a foot bridge near Dixon Lake in the Pine Ridge Natural Area. Evan West has completed his project, helping a science teacher at his school refurbish a giant mockup of the space shuttle. Drew Carlile did a fantastic job of rebuilding the youth playground at the church, complete with nicely done landscaping. Dakotah Merkley has nearly completed construction of a large utility shed at his school. Projects for Andrew Scheaffer and Nick Basaraba have been approved by the troop committee.

Troop Meeting Themes - Monday meetings are organized around themes that are planned and organized by the PLC:

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Theme</u> | <u>Lead Patrol</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| September | Firearm Safety | TBA |
| October | Crime Prevention; Music | TBA |
| November | Crafts | TBA |
| December | Electronics | TBA |

Congratulations! to Troop 82's two newest Eagle Scouts. Wes Martin's Eagle project involved protection of trees from beaver damage along the Poudre River, east of Timberline. Daniel Schmid built and mounted a number of bird houses in the city. Both scouts have completed their Boards of Review. Matthew and David Hodson received their Eagle Awards at a Court of Honor on 18 August.

Upcoming Events for Troop 82

Sept. 8- 9 North Platte canoe trip
Sept. 14-15 Order of the Arrow Ordeal
Sept. 24 Court of Honor. 7-8:30 pm at the church.
Oct. 6- 7 Air Force Academy.
Oct. 15 Troop Elections
Nov. 2- 4 PLC Leadership retreat. All newly elected leaders are expected to attend.
Nov. 12 Open House (for Webelos)

Medical Forms A scout will encounter two types of forms to handle medical emergencies in Troop 82 - the troop Consent Form and a Physical Form for destination camps. The Troop 82 Medical Consent Form contains basic medical information about the scout, is signed by the parent, and is updated each year. It is used in the event that the scout is injured and needs professional attention. The form gives the adult leader the permission to approve any medical attention. The Physical Form is signed by a physician, contains more detailed information about the scout, and is used for a specific organized camp (ie Ben Delatour, Medicine Mountain, Seabase, etc). Given the sensitivity to personal information security, parents are asked retain the original and hand a copy to the leader for these camps which, typically, the camp keeps. If not, Asst. SM's will give them back to the scouts at the end of the trip. Regardless, the troop DOES NOT retain a copy of medical records.