

The Troop **61** Times

The Official Newsletter of Troop 61, Norton, MA

Volume II, Issue IV

March 9, 2011

A Snowy Winter Keeps Troop Busy

Special points of interest

- A once in a lifetime opportunity: "Philmont"
- Troop 61 Eagle Scout Court of Honor on May 22nd
- A blustery trip to the top of Mt. Monadnock
- New merit badge coming in April! Neat.
- Stay up-to-date; check out the upcoming troop events

An abnormally cold, wet winter here in New England has kept members of Troop 61 very busy with outdoor activities galore. For those of you who were unable to attend these events, here's the scoop on what you missed. In late January, troop members visited Camp Norse for the annual Annawon Council Klondike Derby. Prior to the event, members of the troop built a new sled with the assistance of Assistant Scoutmaster Mark Arruda. The troop 61 contingent took a 1st place in the sled race. Congrats!

Then, in early February, the troop went on its annual ski trip to Pat's Peak in NH. Special thanks to Troop Committee Chairman Matt Drane for organizing this great event. Watch out Joe!



Inside this issue:

Serve Something Cheesy	2
New National Outdoor Badges can be earned	2
Philmont Scout Ranch 2012 Contingent Forming	3
Troop 61 Climbs Mt. Monadnock	3
Tulpe Lodge Happenings	4
ACTION REQUIRED: Updating of Medicals	5
Fun Facts about Eagle Scouts	6

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Please mark your calendars. The Troop 61 committee is pleased to announce that all members of Troop 61, past and present, their families, friends, and guests are invited to attend the next Troop 61 Eagle Scout Court of Honor, which is scheduled to be held at 1 PM on Sunday, May 22nd at



the St. Mary's Parish Center. The troop will be recognizing the achievements and awarding the rank of Eagle Scout to Christopher Baptiste and Matthew Sullivan. We hope that you will be able to attend this truly special event.

Serve Something Cheesy!



“Anything you can cook in your kitchen oven, you can cook in a Dutch oven.” The first time I heard that, I thought to myself, “No way.” Now, one of my favorite things to hear someone say is, “There’s *no way* that came out of a Dutch oven!” My all-time favorite reaction to something I adapted for the Dutch oven was when I tried baking a cheesecake. I know it’s hard to believe, but you *can* cook a cheesecake in a Dutch oven. When people ask, “What’s for dessert?” you can reply, “Oh, I thought I’d just do something with cherries.” Odds are they will walk away and tell the others, “We’re having cherry cobbler tonight.” I guarantee that when you take the lid off that Dutch oven and “cherry cobbler” turns into an honest-to-goodness cheesecake—well, just be ready to perform CPR on all the folks who pass out. And one more warning: Be prepared to have people come up to you for the rest of

your life and say, “Hey, aren’t you that Scout/Scouter who made the incredible cheesecake in the woods?”

Start with a 10-inch Dutch oven preheated to about 325 degrees (13 coals on top, 7 coals below). **Crust:** 1 package honey graham crackers, crushed (about 1¾ cup), 3 tablespoons sugar, 5½ tablespoons salted butter, melted. Mix together graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and butter. Lightly spray the inside of the Dutch oven with baking spray. Press the crumb mixture inside. Bake for 10 minutes. **Cheesecake:** 5 packages (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened, 1 cup sugar, 3 tablespoons flour, 1 tablespoon vanilla, 1 cup sour cream, 4 eggs, baking spray, your favorite cheesecake topping. Mix by hand cream cheese, sugar, flour, and vanilla until well blended. Add sour cream. Mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing until just blended. Pour over crust. Bake for about 1 hour or until center is almost set. Loosen cake from side of oven and let cool before serving with favorite fruit topping. Serves: 12 to 16 slices. Enjoy!

New National Outdoor Badges

Do you enjoy camping under the stars, rafting a whitewater river, or hitting the trail afoot, on a bike, or even on a horse? Can you pitch a tent, find your way, and bandage an ankle using only materials in your pack? Are you prepared to do any of these in rain, snow, sleet, or heat? If so, the National Outdoor Awards are for you. There is nothing virtual about these awards—you can earn them only by demonstrating both

knowledge and experience in the outdoors. So, if you are a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout and think you are tough and disciplined enough to hike or ride the miles, camp the nights, and run the rivers or lakes, then read on and see if the National Outdoor Badges or possibly the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement could be for you! The five National Outdoor Badges recognize a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who demon-

strates both knowledge and experience in camping, hiking, aquatics, riding, or adventure. Scouts earning the National Outdoor badges have demonstrated that they are knowledgeable, safe, and comfortable in the outdoor activity covered by the badge. **What are the requirements?** They’re posted at scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Youth/Awards/NOA.aspx Good luck!

Wood Badge: Have you considered going?

Wood Badge is advanced training for all leaders. The training received in this course will not only help you become a better leader, but also a better person. It is not all scout skills, rather this course is similar to many corporate training sessions where the costs are thousands of dollars per participant. We are blessed to have a course being held for one of the two weekends at our own Camp Norse this spring. The course director is an excellent Scouter from Boston Minuteman Council, and the course staff will be represented by all of the participating councils.

This course promises to be a great one! They need 48 people to sign up before the end of the year! If you were considering taking Wood Badge in the past, now is the time to sign-up. They are still looking for adult leaders to sign up for this year’s course offering:

More information about this worthwhile training course can be found at the following website:

<http://www.bsaboston.org/registration/calendardetail.asp?orgkey=909&ActivityKey=747574>

Philmont Scout Ranch: An Opportunity

Annawon Council is forming a contingent to attend a Philmont Trek during the summer of 2012. Philmont Scout Ranch, the Boy Scouts of America's premier High Adventure™ base, challenges Scouts and Venturers with more than 214,000 square miles of rugged northern New Mexico wilderness. Backpacking treks, horseback cavalcades, and training and service programs offer young people many ways to experience this legendary country.

A Philmont trek is physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. Each person will carry a 35 to 50 - pound pack while hiking five to 12 miles per day in an isolated mountain wilderness, ranging from 6,500 to 12,500 feet in elevation. Climatic conditions include temperatures from 30 to 90 degrees F, low humidity (10% to 30%) and frequent, sometimes severe, afternoon thunderstorms.

In order to meet the Philmont challenge, every participant must meet the required weight limit for backpacking, understand Philmont's risk advisory, and be aware of potential hazards. Participants with medical conditions or requirements should review the recommendations regarding chronic illness.

Important: the rules for participation are the same for everyone without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, or special needs. Any participant arriving at Philmont who does not meet the physical requirements—or any person coming off the trail because they cannot physically "make it"—must return home at their own expense.

The Annawon Council is forming a contingent to attend during the summer of 2012. The council is seeking serious requests to attend this contingent of at least 7 to 12, of possibly 2 crews for this adventure.

Age: You must be 14 years old, or 13 and freshman in high school and through, and including age 20.

Who: It is open to boys and girls

Trip Length: The trek will be 10 days and the whole trip will be approximately 14 to 16 days

Cost: Approximately \$1600 to \$2000

When: June, July or August of 2012

A serious commitment to this contingent must be made no later than **April 25, 2011**. A **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$100 is required. Make check payable to the Annawon Council. For more information, please visit the Annawon Council website at <http://www.annawonbsa.org>. To find out more about Philmont Scout Ranch: <http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Philmont/About.aspx> or <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org>



Troop 61 Scouts Climb Mt. Monadnock



By: Walter Eykel, SA. For the third year in a row, members of Troop 61 climbed Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. The Scouts who made the climb this year were Brendan Jones, Mike Tierney, Sean Eykel, Ryan Eykel, Gene Marsolais, Jim Valentine and Aaron Pitts accompanied by several fathers. Brendan, Mike and Sean have each climbed the mountain twice before while this was the first climb for Ryan, Gene, Jim and Aaron. Conditions this year included snow in the morning with about a foot of fresh powder on the trail. While the visibility was limited by snow and fog, the summit was surprisingly warm with zero wind. This was a challenging winter hike requiring extra equipment and preparation and everyone had a great time.



News Briefs: All You Need to Know

Troop 61 is a very active unit and the spring schedule is starting to fill up. Some announcements and information on upcoming activities and things that shouldn't be missed:

- The troop will be holding a pancake breakfast fundraiser at the St. Mary's Parish Center on Monday, May 30th (Memorial Day). The breakfast will be held from 7:30-9:30 AM, prior to the annual town parade, in which all Scouts should plan on marching in. The cost is



\$4 for adults and \$2 for children with a \$10 max per family. *All veterans will eat free of charge.* The troop will need help from Scouts, leaders and parents to make this a successful event.

- The Troop 61 Guidebook, which will be distributed to all of the new Scouts and their parents very soon, discusses various aspects of the Boy Scout program that Troop 61 delivers. Topics include Troop History, Information for New Scouts, Troop Or-



ganization, Camping, Communication, and much more. If you don't already have a copy, be sure to pick one up or download it from the troop website.

- An annual tradition, the troop will be attending summer camp this year at Camp Medicine Bow, part of the Yawgoog Scout Reservation. The troop will be attending from August 7-14. More information and payment schedule will be made available soon. All Scouts are encouraged to attend.



Tulpe Lodge Happenings



Approximately 90 people attended the Annual Family Banquet held in January. It was a night filled with great food (thanks to Tom Goebel and Roger Marsan), awards and recognition, and a silent auction. The lodge raised over \$1,200 in the auction this year. Congratulations are in order for Troop 61's own **Rohan Vakil** for re-

ceiving the Founder's Award, the highest award that Tulpe Lodge can present to an Arrowman for their service to the Order and by living their life in the spirit of the OA founders, E. Urner Goodman and Col. Carol A. Edson.

Also, you're probably wondering, what's the next lodge event?

That would be the Spring Lodge Meeting. All Arrowmen are invited to attend; this year it will be a PIZZA PARTY at St. Mary's Parish Center in Norton on Sunday, March 27th at 3 PM. Come learn about upcoming lodge events and opportunities to participate and serve. Contact Rohan Vakil, Tulpe Lodge Chief, for more information about attending.



Upcoming Troop Events: Spring...finally

March

9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th—Troop Meeting, Parish Center (PC), 7 PM

19th—Coco Key Water Resort trip

25th-27th—Camp Zion (Onway, NH) camping trip

27th—Tulpe Lodge Meeting, PC, 3 PM (*All Arrowmen are invited*)

April

6th, 13th, 27th—Troop Meeting, Parish Center, 7 PM

6th—Green Bar meeting, 6 PM

15th—Rock Gym trip (TBD)

17th—Issac Davis Trail trip

29th-May 1st—Spring Camporee

May

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th—Troop Meeting, Parish Center, 7 PM

4th—Green Bar meeting, 6 PM

22nd—Eagle Scout Court of Honor, Parish Center, 1 PM

30th—Town of Norton Memorial Day Parade, HAY School, 9 AM

Annual Health and Medical Record Update

An important notice to all Scouts and their parents regarding some paperwork changes that require action on your part. Please read the following information provided by the BSA National Council:

The Annual Health and Medical Record was released in December 2008, and its use became mandatory on January 1, 2010. The latest update to the record consolidates all records from the National Council and the three national high-adventure base forms, enabling a single medical form to be used across all BSA activities. The new form, No. 680-001, supersedes the previous form 34605; this new item should be phased in immediately as

it renders the old forms obsolete.

The Annual Health and Medical Record is required for participation in all Scouting events, including day and resident camps and high-adventure bases. It should be updated no less than annually.

All registered Scouts and Adult Leaders in Troop 61 must submit the above mentioned new medical form as soon as possible in order to participate in activities, specifically summer camp.

Highlights/changes with the 2011 update:

- The record now lives on an interactive web page on Scouting Safely.

Scouts, Scouters, parents and staff can download, fill in, and print it on standard paper, and can save an electronic copy for their personal files. The link is <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx>

- Parts A and B, the health history and release statement, will be utilized the most.
- Part C is the physical exam.
- Part D is a review piece for participants attending any of the national high-adventure bases.

NOTE: The new record 680-001 supersedes and is the equivalent for meeting day and resident camp standard requirements that for 2011 still reference the previous medical form No. 34605.

The Scoutmaster's Minute: Life's Choices

Life isn't about keeping score. It's not about how many friends you have or how accepted you are. It's not about if you have plans this weekend or not. It isn't about who your family is or how much money they have or what kind of car you drive or where you go to school. It's not about how handsome or ugly you are, the clothes you wear, the shoes you wear, or what kind of mu-

sic you listen to. It's not about if your hair is blonde, red, black, or brown or if your skin is too light or too dark. It's not about how smart you are, or how smart everybody else thinks you are. It's not about what clubs you're in or how good you are at "your" sport. Life just isn't about those things. Life is about choices. It's about who you make happy. It's about kindness and generosity.

It's about holding and sharing trust. It's about friendship. It's about faith, integrity, and character. Most of all, it's about using your life to touch other people's hearts in such a way that could have never occurred alone. Only you can choose the way those hearts are affected, and those choices make up what your life is all about.

Think about it.

A much anticipated merit badge is available in April...

April brings the long-awaited debut of the Robotics merit badge. Along with the recently unveiled Inventing and Geocaching badges, this one enhances Scouting's commitment to activities associated with science, technology, engineering, and math. Rick Tyler, who advises a Redmond, Wash., robotics Venturing crew and served on the

merit badge's development team, believes the new badge—which depicts a Mars rover—helps to keep Scouting relevant to 21st-century youth who are huge consumers of technology but may feel “intimidated” by the idea of creating it themselves. “When I was a Scout, we probably had 35 agricultural merit badges because this was an agricultural country,” Tyler says. “Now we have something like four. If Scouting wants to keep up

with what's going on in our society and culture, we need to keep up with what Scouts are into. And they're into technology.” Look for requirements and more information online on April 12.



ABOUT THE TROOP

Troop 61 of Norton, MA, is sponsored by St. Mary's Church of Norton. The troop is part of the Angle Tree District of Annawon Council #225.

Meetings are held every Wednesday from 7-8:30 PM at the St. Mary's Parish Center from September through June, unless otherwise stated.

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Visit us at
troop61bsa.org

POWDER HORN TRAINING

A Cluster Council Course
August 26-28, 2011
September 16-18, 2011
Camp Greenough, Yarmouth Port
and Camp Massasoit, Plymouth
-- A TWO WEEKEND COURSE --
(three full days each weekend)

Why Powder Horn?

Many Scouting leaders face the dilemma of having a strong desire to provide challenging and fun outdoor programs to meet the needs of their older youth members, but lack the knowledge and/or resources to do so. Powder Horn responds to the quandary with an exciting new training opportunity that exposes Venturing, Varsity Scout, Boy Scout leaders, and Cub Scout leaders to a wide range of outdoor/high adventure activities. More importantly, Powder Horn provides its participants with valuable resource and contacts to assist them in delivering the promise of Scouting's high adventure to youth.

Approach

The Powder Horn course is based on

the requirements for Venturing's prestigious Ranger Award. The Ranger Award Program requires demonstrated proficiency in a challenging set of core and elective topics. During Powder Horn, presentations on Ranger topics are made by knowledgeable consultants who demonstrate the skills required and explain where resources, such as equipment, facilities, guides, instructors, and certifications can be obtained locally. Many of the presentations involve actual hands-on experience by the participants. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES is any Powder Horn participant required to participate in an activity they are uncomfortable with. They may choose just to observe and learn. The Venturing program offers youth ages 13-21 opportunities limited only by their imagination and desire. This course provides leaders with the resources to help guide those youth in meeting their goals.

NOTE: You must be at least 21 years of age to participate in this training offering For more information and an on-line application visit <http://www.bsaboston.org>

Did you know?

Some fun facts about the rank of Eagle Scout and those who earns it:

- 52,470 youth earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2009.
- From 1912 to 2009 more than 2 million Boy Scouts have earned the Eagle Scout rank.
- Eagle Scout rank is earned by only 5 percent of Boy Scouts each year.
- 2,096,676 merit badges were earned by Boy Scouts in 2009.
 - 117,649,303 merit badges have been earned by Boy Scouts since Scouting was established in 1910.
 - The most often earned merit badges since 1910 include: First Aid—6,537,232, Swimming—5,929,179, Camping—4,364,027, Cooking—4,122,629 and Citizenship in the Community—3,178,473
- 181 NASA astronauts were involved in Scouting (57.4% of astronauts).
 - 39 are Eagle Scouts.
- 35.5 percent of the United States Military Academy (West Point) cadets were involved in Scouting as youth.
 - 15.6 percent of cadets are Eagle Scouts.
- 30.5 percent of United States Air Force Academy cadets were involved in Scouting as youth.
 - 13.5 percent of cadets are Eagle Scouts.
- 25 percent of United States Naval Academy (Annapolis) midshipmen were involved in Scouting as youth.
 - 14 percent of midshipmen are Eagle Scouts.
- 212 members of the 111th Congress participated in Scouting as a youth and/or adult leader.
 - 22 are Eagle Scouts



Prepared. For Life.™

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: Do you like to write? Do you want to get more involved? Consider writing an article for the next Troop 61 Times! Contact Michael Hebner at hekim84@yahoo.com

