

Troop 888

NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by: **North Strand Optimist Club**



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BACKPACK TRIP CHALLENGING FUN

On Friday February 20, just before 7:00 p.m., our bus rolled into Poinsett State Park, near Sumter, SC. We shouldered our packs, hiked for about twenty minutes, and then set up patrol sites in the dark using flashlights. We were relieved it wasn't raining! Mr. Lester carted in a truckload of wood to the campsite, and throughout our stay, firewood for cooking, warmth, and light was split in a troop ax yard. Saturday morning, Chris Jordan, Joseph Ghandour, Ryan



Charles Horton and Jeff Bialecki assembling Monkey Bridge. Photograph by Jason Hardee.

Holmes, and Devin Shirkey all completed their Second Class five-mile compass hike, and Steven Sloope returned from the lake carrying a big Largemouth Bass he caught on a Banjo Minnow lure. By noon a Double A-Frame Monkey Bridge was built under the direction of Jeff Bialecki and Charles Horton. (The 8' and 6' spars for this project were also carried to our campsite in the truck.) Both Friday and Saturday nights were cold on this trip, but the weather remained clear and the skies were especially bright with stars. We all hiked out in good style on Sunday morning.

SPRING CAMPOREE MARCH 27-29

Our next camping trip is the 1998 Spring Camporee at Santee Coastal Reserve south of Georgetown. The Black River District of Coastal Carolina Council will sponsor the gathering. Events will include a "Rope Toss Log Lift Challenge," a very demanding "Fire Building Contest," a special Campsite and Gateway Competition, a Compass Course, a Cross Cut Saw Race, a "Top Knotter" Contest, and a Saturday night interpatrol Desert Competition. This Camporee will also feature time for patch-trading and free-time fun. Troop "teams" will be preparing for some of the above events during this month's troop meetings. Attendance is strongly encouraged.



Gateway and Campsite, 1997 Fall Camporee

WELCOME NEW SCOUTS

On March 1, in a special ceremony, Webelos Scouts will be crossing over into our troop from Cub Scout Pack 840. We would like to welcome, Travis Collins, Bradford Dawson, Theodore Fontana, Jesse Hardee, Matt Silverberg, Brandon Sipes, Russ Spatholt, Cobie Szigety, and Maxwell Walter. We hope their Boy Scouting experience will be rewarding. Their addition brings our roster to over 40 Scouts and leads to the formation of a fifth patrol.

MR. LESTER'S CAMPING TRIP REVIEW

"This camping trip was a blast. A lot of good things came of it. Stephen Sloope said he had never caught a fish that size before, and was extremely excited. He learned how to clean and prepare it for the fire and cook it up in tin foil, and the Scouting way was exemplified when he shared the good-tasting meal with other Scouts. I was impressed with the monkey bridge which caught the eye of three other troops camping in the area. Plenty of other Scouts enjoyed our project right along with us. Several items of interest came up throughout the trip. It is important that Scouts remember to follow their recipes carefully or else instead of pancake batter you might get a bucket of white water. That's a little thin to use for frying up a mess of hotcakes. Luckily there was some extra mix on hand, so this particular patrol got breakfast. Remember too that it's not enough just to be given a list of what to bring when we go backpacking, but you need to take the time to bring the stuff on the list so you won't freeze on these cold weather trips. All in all, everything went really well. I would like to take this opportunity to invite any interested parents to come along with us and experience the fun (and the food) that we enjoy when we go camping."

BIG PIG PICKIN' FUND RAISER AHEAD

On March 26, the Thursday before the Camporee, the troop will be hosting a PIG PICKIN'. Here's the chance to raise money for June's Boy Scout Summer Camp, August's Whitewater Rafting Trip, and October's Philmont payment. Ronnie Bell has volunteered to do the cooking, and popular opinion has it that the way he cooks barbecue is second to none. Tickets sell for \$5.00 each for a plate of barbecue, baked beans, potato salad, and cole slaw. Plates can be picked up on March 26, between 5:00-7:00 p.m. near the North Myrtle Beach Winn Dixie parking lot. Scouts can sell as many tickets as they want and the \$\$\$ will be deposited in their personal account! All tickets must be sold by March 20.

**Troop 888 Information Line
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