

Troop 888

NEWSLETTER

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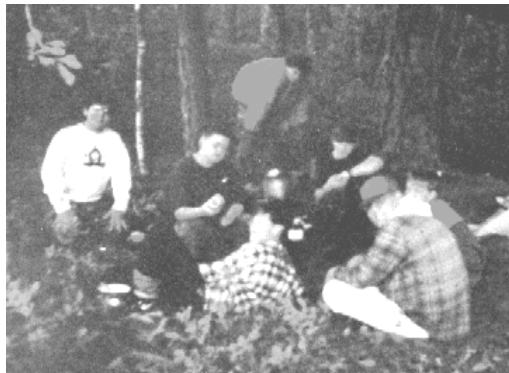
April's Backpacking Trip

On Saturday, April 25, twenty-five Troop 888 Scouts packed their patrol gear in their backpacks and loaded up the bus for the third straight camping trip where we enjoyed great, rain-free weather. It was good to see that after we hiked over the four-acre field at Camp Hardee, that the trail to our camping area was not too grown over and still easy to follow. Patrols laid down their backpacks in their chosen sites, and it didn't take too long before dining flies and tents were up, kitchen and fire areas were completed, and lunch was served and eaten. Many troop members went

exploring, while others gathered and sawed firewood for cooking and campfires, or spent time improving their patrol campsites. A few Scouts completed their orien-



Steven Sloop and Michael O'Neil Backpacking to their patrol sites with the rest of the troop at Camp Hardee on April 25.



Scorpion Patrol - Top: Joseph Ghandour, Jason Hardee, Tristian Addington, Tim Green, Max Walter, Front: Kurt Lester, Cory Keebler

teering course for First Class, and eleven Scouts had an opportunity to pass off their Tenderfoot requirements for "identifying local poisonous plants." After paintball activities later in the afternoon and early evening dinners, campfires and a beautiful, star-lit night put the finishing touches on an active April day.



Wolverine Patrol - Top: Russell Spaltholt, Teddy Fontana, Jesse Hardee, Kneeling: Travis Collins, Alex Rogers

Order of the Arrow Elections

On Monday, May 11, Troop 888 will hold it's annual Order of the Arrow elections. The O.A. is a national organization of honor campers. Members need to be elected by their fellow Scouts. A representative from Santee Lodge, No. 116, of the Order of the Arrow, will conduct the elections during the first part of our troop meeting. To be eligible, a Scout must have attained the rank of First Class, have fifteen nights of camping, since joining the Boy Scouts, five of which must be a continuous, long-term camp. Those (if any) who are fortunate to elected from our troop, will be "tapped out" at Camp Barstow this summer, and be inducted at Camp Coker in August.

May's Waterfront Camping Trip

Our annual camping trip at Camp Coker will be held May 22-24. All Scouts attending will be picked up by the troop bus from school on Friday. "What to bring" lists will be distributed at the end of the May 11 troop meeting. Packed backpacks must be brought to Monday's troop meeting on May 18. This camping trip is always filled with lots of free time and waterfront fun. Camp Coker is the Pee Dee Area Council's summer camp and offers us lots of opportunities for swimming, fishing, row boating, and canoing. Like at Boy Scout Camp this summer, all Scouts will be given swimming tests to determine where they will be able to swim, and in which waterfront activities they can participate.