

Troop 888 NEWSLETTER



Sponsored by: **North Strand Optimist Club**

December, 1998, Vol. 3, No. 4

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

**December Troop Meeting
Interpatrol Competitions
Pictorial: Pages 1-2**

**Map and Compass Hike
to Camp Hardee
Page 1**

**Annual Holiday Meeting
Page 1**

**January Backpacking
"Cold-Weather" 2-Nighter
Page 1**

**"Narc News"
Advancement Corner
Page 2**

**Philmont Aerobic
Training Schedule
Page 2**

**Other Troop News
Page 2**

Five Mile Map and Compass Hike to Camp Hardee

The weather for the last part of November and the first part of December was unusually dry. There had been no rain at all for three weeks, and it was definitely about time for a change. With the five mile hike, from Loris High School to Camp Hardee, scheduled for Saturday, December 12, wouldn't you know it but the forecast was for 100% chance of heavy rain. In other words, rain was a sure thing, and just like the year before



Members of the Raccoon Patrol on board their tripod during December's 1st troop meeting.



Members of the Wolverine Patrol supporting a heavy "fishing pole" they constructed in an attempt to catch a cocked mousetrap ten feet away, during December's second troop meeting

we'd be sloshing through deep puddles. But, no! We didn't even get a drop! Those Scouts who attended were able to hike—dry, light their cooking fires—dry, eat lunch—dry, explore Camp Hardee—dry, and Dan Messich, and Ian Barker were even able to make it through the First Class Orienteering Course—dry! By the way, Camp Hardee is looking good, even though the trail leading to the campsites is becoming a "little" overgrown.

The hike went smoothly. As always, we encountered the same two horses who galloped over to get a closer look at us as we passed by. Unlike previous years, on this hike, no Scouts lagged far behind. And all the Scouts going to Philmont who came along, especially Jason Hardee, who decided to carry a pack in excess of fifty pounds, learned something about the proper adjustment of a well-cushioned hip belt.

Annual Holiday Troop Meeting

by Jeff Bialecki

On December 14th, Troop 888 had its annual Holiday Party. Lots of good food was eaten, and there were many fun games played, including a relay race where each patrol got to gift wrap an adult leader with a roll of toilet paper. To top it off, we had our annual troop-wide grab bag. For those of you that missed it, the grab bag was where everybody brought a present that was placed in a big bag, and then, one by one, we all took turns picking a gift. Scouts could then trade with each other if they wanted. In conclusion, the annual Holiday Troop Meeting was a fun and sociable time enjoyed by all.

Winter Backpacking Two-Nighter

All Scouts attending the camping trip back to Waccamaw Lake State Park, on January 22-24, will meet the bus right after school on Friday the 22nd. Backpacks will be packed with patrol and troop gear during the troop meeting on Monday, January 18, and then loaded on the bus. Patrols will not have to carry their food in their packs for this winter-time, two-nighter, but will pick it up from a troop base camp for storage in their patrol sites.

The camping trip will concentrate on staying comfortable in cold weather, with an emphasis on outdoor advancement from Tenderfoot through First Class, along with tests for Camping Merit Badge.