

Backpacking Trip: April 23-25

Get ready for the Swamp Fox Recreation Trail in Francis Marion National Forest. Named after the famous Revolutionary War general, the twenty-seven mile trail passes through a wide variety of habitats from stands of mature longleaf pine to hardwood bottomland. There's also deer, woodpeckers and wild turkey. This campout is a real change from last month's camping trip, because each patrol will carry everything they need for two nights and five meals in their backpacks, including patrol gear. On Friday afternoon, most of the troop will hike a short distance to "Halfway Creek Campground" where they will make camp until Sunday morning. There will be free time, some organized games, and opportunities for outdoor advancement.

The Philmont crews will start at a different point, hike for five miles, and then set up camp



Geoff Britzke joining together two A-Frames for a Double A-Frame Monkey Bridge last November. Geoff was elected SPL and takes over leadership of Troop 888 in April.



"The Same Old Story...watch your schedules, and finish up the work BEFORE you play." (during a little chat at the troop table, Saturday morning, Chicora District Camporee)

for Friday night. After breakfast, Saturday morning, they will strike their tents and pack their gear for another five mile hike to their next site where they will make their second camp. Here they will spend the rest of Saturday. Bright and early on Sunday, they will pack up again, hike a final five miles to join the rest of the troop for the walk back to the bus.

Election Held for a New Senior Patrol Leader

Our previous Senior Patrol Leader, Tony Speedling, is a starting player for the North Myrtle Beach High School's soccer team. Because the team's games are scheduled for Monday nights, Tony has been unable to attend our weekly troop meetings. Therefore, the Patrol Leaders Council recently voted to elect a new SPL who was in a better position to dedicate his time to running the troop.

On Monday, March 22, in a troopwide election conducted by Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Tripp Collins, Geoff Britzke became the youngest SPL in our troop's history. He is undergoing training for this important position, and officially assumes the job April 5.

"Narc News"

(Mrs. Bezmen's Advancement Corner)

Congratulations to our new Senior Patrol Leader, Geoff Britzke. Geoff has selected Timothy Green to be his assistant.

Weekly Skills Instruction will resume during April's troop meetings. One of the best ways for any Scout to advance most quickly is to attend troop meetings on a regular basis.

With the Camporee behind us, there are a few more stars next to some names bringing them that much closer to rank advancement. In a couple of weeks there will be another board of review so be sure to tie up the loose ends for any major advancement or merit badges you are working on for this month. The Troop Librarian now has a list of all requirements in print-out and disk format. Please do not take any of them without letting him know first! Remember also, these are just the requirements...any specific information will be found in the merit badge pamphlet or your handbook. The Assistant Scoutmasters are always available to answer your questions and help you with your advancement so check the boards each week for any outstanding requirements you may have.

Troop 888 Information Line: 272-3498

Other Troop News

Summer Camp Reminder: Our troop is scheduled to attend Camp Bob Hardin in Saluda, NC - **June 13-19**.

The newest edition of *The Boy Scout Handbook* is now available. This updated edition is definitely superb with great photos and more information than ever. You can order a copy for \$7.95.



Order of the Arrow elections are scheduled for Monday, April 26. This is the meeting immediately following April's backpacking trip.

Troop meetings start promptly at 6:30 p.m. If you arrive at 6:31, you are late. You could be missing a lot more than a very important announcement. Arrive at Monday meetings by 6:15. That way you and your patrol can participate in the Gathering Period and get yourself in gear for what's ahead.

Troop 888 "Class A" uniforms consist of Scout shirt, (tucked in) and camo pants. If you are out of uniform, not only are you failing to demonstrate your best troop and patrol spirit, but you are also costing your patrol points. Unless you are told otherwise, wear your uniform to every meeting.