

BOY SCOUT TROOP 888

NEWSLETTER

Sponsored
by:

North Strand Optimist Club



January-February, 2000, Vol. 4, No. 1

January Camp Hardee Backpacking Trip: Rainy and Rough

On January 22 at Camp Hardee, patrols spread out with the Venture Crew camping by themselves in the north end of the woods, the Anacondas in the central area near the adults, and the Scorpions and Rattlesnakes off the path to the west. The pine growth in Camp Hardee's field has thickened a lot which made for good troop-wide games on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Lester supervised the paintball activities which went as planned. We knew we were in for some rotten weather. We were right. The rain started on Saturday night and never stopped, so we had to pack out troop and patrol gear that was ringing wet. Our trip was just a couple of days in front of January's snow and ice which closed school for most of the following week!

February's Poinsett State Park 2-Nighter: Monkey Bridge, Cooking Contest, and CLEAR!

The trees at Poinsett State Park are draped with Spanish Moss. It's a pretty place. We didn't catch any fish, but we had GREAT weather, great food, built a monkey bridge, and set up a really nice campsite.

We left the Middle School at 3:30 on Friday, February 18, and by the time we stopped for dinner at the Hardees Restaurant across from Shaw Air Force Base, it was already dark. Because we could drive the bus right to the camping area, it was easy to set up by lantern light.

Yes! We were finally spared nasty weather! It was supposed to rain a lot, but we didn't get a drop! Actually, the moon was so big, round and bright, we didn't even need flashlights! (*Continued on Page 2*)

Troop 888's Tenth Monkey Bridge

Four and a half years ago, we studied the plans for a Double A-Frame Monkey Bridge in the Pioneering Merit Badge Pamphlet. Four and a half years later, we're still using the same pine spars, cut from behind the Bezmen's house,



Top left: SPL Jeff Silverberg goes through the "tricky" process of lashing two A-Frames, where the 8-foot spars cross. Top center: Chris steadies the A-Frames as Matt attaches the hand ropes with a clove hitch on each side. Far right: new Scout, Davis Hall helps his brother lash the top of on one of the four A-Frames in the early stage of making the bridge. Bottom left: Will tests the bridge before the final tightening of the hand and foot ropes. Bottom right: Jon trying her out. The bridge went up in about an hour. It took ten minutes to take her down.

and putting up bridges on selected camping trips and Scouting events. The lashings and methods we learned are constantly being passed on to new Scouts. The techniques are the same but with some slight improvements. Like, a sheer lashing is tied on the top of the A-Frames instead of a square lashing. And after this last bridge, thanks to Chris Danes, we're now frapping the "stoppings" on the bottom when lashing the two A-Frames together. This makes them real tight!

After four and a half years, the bridges are still as much fun as ever, and with more advanced teamwork and sharper skills, they're going up a whole lot faster too.