

BOY SCOUT TROOP 888

NEWSLETTER

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Four of the key Square Lashers: Theodore Fontana, Hiram Ruiz, Ian Barker, and new Scout-Zack Riddle, on top of the tower, Saturday after lunch. The troop's 6th 14' Double Ladder Signal Tower was the most sturdy one to date. The design is found in the most-recent edition of the Pioneering Merit Badge Pamphlet.

Tim Green (right) takes aim at the rifle range. Strict gun safety measures were enforced by certified instructor, John Lester.



Patrol cooking under one roof at "Scoutland." Each patrol was able to set up their own kitchen in separate corners.



"Scoutland" Camping Trip: Tower, Rifle-Shooting (and Dirt Mound)

On March 24th there was no school, so we boarded our bus right from St. Stephen's to drive the short distance to Scoutland, behind Azalea Sands Golf Course. A troop table was handed out to each patrol, and the whole troop took full advantage of the large shelter in Scoutland's base camp for meal preparation and eating. Patrol dining flies weren't needed.

The camping trip features were a signal tower, rifle shooting, and a desert competition. In spite of these attractions, for most Scouts it appeared the best part of the trip was playing on a large dirt mound south of the campsites. If how really dirty the Scouts got was any measure of the good time they had, then it was the dirt mound that scored the highest marks for fun.

This year's signal tower went up in Scoutland's large grassy field. The operation took a little over two hours.

PHASE 1: Before we started, a well-muscled sledge hammer crew, made up of Jason Hardee, Theodore Fontana, Cory Keibler, Kurt Lester, and Will Hall, took turns pounding in 24 three-foot pioneering stakes to make up the four "3-2-1" anchors needed to tie the tower down. (continued on page 2, at "Tower")

Camping Trip Review

On March 24-26, the troop spent its latest weekend in the woods at Scoutland, and what a weekend it was! The shooting went very well. The whole troop was able to participate and everyone was safety-minded. Timothy Green, Michael O'Neil, and Jason Hardee qualified for Rifle Shooting Merit Badge.

The sky was so clear on Friday night, Ian Barker was finally able to finish up his First Class requirements by finding north via the Big Dipper, along with Davis Hall, Chris O'Neil, Zack Riddle, Hiram Ruiz, Jonathan Silverberg, and Kit Smith. It's always satisfying when a compass-check proves that the Scout can put a stick on the ground pointing North, just by looking at the stars.

One of the highlights was the Saturday night "Desert Competition." The winner was the Killer Bee Patrol with Kurt's chocolate cake. Our youngest chef, Jonathan Silverberg of the Anaconda Patrol, completed Cooking Merit Badge. All four patrols cooked well on this trip, and clean up was satisfactory.

Scouts should be commended for their safe use of patrol fires. Good work, guys! Each fire was well-placed, your water buckets were kept full, and no fires were left unattended. Be careful with fire! Nothing less is acceptable. Also, a Scout is clean in his outdoor manners! Remember, since you know we're not leaving until your site is clean, how about just keeping it clean all the time. Clean camping is easy camping.

As always, we welcome all parents and interested adults to come share some quality time with our youth on any of the monthly trips.