

# BOY SCOUT TROOP 888

# NEWSLETTER

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**North Strand Optimist Club**



Late Spring, 2000, Vol. 4, No. 3

## Bird Island: Sun, Sand, and a Different Kind of Camping Trip



### BIRD ISLAND BEACH SWEEP CREW

Campers pose for a picture behind their collection of trash and garbage found along the beach at Bird Island. From left to right: Mr. Lester, Chris Danes, Justin Davidson, Davis Hall, Chris O'Neill, Kurt Lester, Michael O'Neill, Matthew Silverberg, Theodore Fontana, Tripp Collins, Jason Hardee, Hiram Ruiz, Garrett Hogan, Kit Smith, Russell Spatholt, Daniel Messich, Ian Barker, Will Hall, Jeff Silverberg, Greg Spatholt, Zack Riddle, Daniel Laursen, Jonathan Silverberg, Mr. Danes, Travis Collins, Peter Danes



A gathering of Scouts on part of the island's high ground leads to a long game of "King of the Hill."

On Saturday morning, April 29, Scouts assembled at the boat landing under the bridge in North Myrtle Beach for the troop's first beach camping experience. Mr. Danes and Mr. Lester soon arrived in Mr. Danes' boat to take the first load of troop gear and campers to Bird Island. Scouts would have to wade ashore with their packs and supplies and then set up camp on the beach. With the help of Mr. Bell and his pontoon boat, the troop was transported to the island in three trips. A crew of Soccer-playing Scouts arrived that afternoon in Mr. Spatholt's boat.

Camping on the beach gave rise to some special challenges: how to stake down the dining flies, and how to keep sand out of tents, gear, and food. Dining flies were held down with long pioneering stakes, but the upright poles sank in the sand and the shelters were really, really low. Happily, it didn't rain. Sand was another story. As predicted, it got into everything, and a big portion of May 8th's troop meeting was devoted to de-sanding tents and equipment. Another problem was dealing with all the sun. Scouts used sun screen, but some still got burnt (especially Michael O'Neill). The solution in the future is spf 100—cover up with clothing.

Features of this very sandy campout were swimming, crabbing, fishing, island exploring, and lots of free-time play. A full-scale beach sweep was also carried out, and this

camping trip was the ideal example of Scouts leaving their camping area cleaner than the way they found it. Here are some comments. Chris Danes: "It was fun." Dan Messich: "Loved the sun and sand." Daniel Laursen: "I loved playing King of the Hill." Theodore Fontana: "It was one of the best camping trips yet." Chris O'Neill: "Besides the sunburn, it was cool."



Mr. Dane's boat, anchored near Bird Island.