



# Troop 477 Committee Meeting Minutes

November 3rd, 2003

Meeting called to order at 7:38 PM.

Present: Jeff Glaze, Peter Bain, Del Price, Bill Aaron, Walt LaRoche, Henry Fisher, Carolyn Sparks, Jack Linder, Mark Botsch, Joseph Clements, Hal Breffle, Mike LaPrade and later Bob Melton.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Troop Committee Secretary (Carolyn Sparks, present)**

Oct. meeting minutes approved. Past copies available on web page.

### **Committee Chairman (Jeff Glaze, present)**

Jeff has already begun work on recharter.

1. Both Youth and Adults **MUST respond to the letter**, otherwise be removed from the list.
2. Jeff wants any requests for changes of positions within the Committee or from Committee to ASM or vice versa **by November**.
3. Target due date – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in December.

### **Charter Organization (Mark Botsch, present)**

1. The church is researching whether to start Venture Crew or Sea Scouts.
  - a. Anyone interested in working with this group should let Mark know.
  - b. Initial organizational meeting to be held within the next couple of weeks (adults only).
  - c. Second organizational meeting will include prospective crewmembers.
  - d. Meetings to be announced through internal e-mailings.
1. Annual Charter meeting with Pastor of the church to be held in December. Best if Cub Scout representative and District Representative are there also. **Mark** to set date with Pastor first.
3. Church should supply new fire extinguisher soon.

### **Unit Commissioner's Report (Paul Porwoll, absent, Walt LaRoche reporting)**

1. Coin collecting and District merit badge day both offered Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> (info on website).
2. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> designated day of service, our unit assigned to Chestnut Elementary. (Comment that preference is that our boys work on service with the church unless otherwise approved).
3. District Banquet? date, sometime next spring.
4. **Need Trail Blazer nominations** from troop members.
5. Recharter Saturday is in January (we will do early).
6. Scout leader training in Feb with camping trip in March, dates not set.
7. Scout show in March.
8. Camporee 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of May.
9. OA elections in Feb. or March
  - a. **Peter and Jack** \* Please make sure troop knows who is eligible before that meeting.
  - b. **Bob** \* Please contact OA in advance. Can find Etowah link through Hightower webpage.

\*\* **Secretary note:** Last month's minutes reminded **Bob and Joseph Clements** that JLT in June fills up fast.

### **Camping Chairman's Report (Peter Bain, present)**

1. Nov. Backpacking, Panther Creek Falls – Bob Melton Camp Master



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- a. May sign up on website. **Carolyn** \* print permission slips for posting at Thursday's meeting.
- b. Adults: David Fessendon, Joseph Clements
- c. Scouts currently signed up: Michael Fessendon, Peter Clements.
1. Dec. 6th Camp Thunder with Webelos – Hal Breffle Camp Master
  - a. Leaving Friday evening 6:30, coming back Sunday approx. 2:00.
  - b. Climbing merit badge may be earned (**Boys should start blue card before trip**). Troop has Rappelling and Climbing activities reserved for Saturday (9:00 – 12:00 and 1:00-5:00).
  - c. Requested that the **older boys attend** this trip.
1. Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>-18th – Camp Laura Walker, north of Okeefenokee swamp, - Bill Aaron Camp Master.
  - a. Depart Saturday morning, return Monday.
1. Feb. – ski trip – Jack Linder Camp Master.
2. **Members are requested to research** whether the troop should move camping weekend to second weekend or keep on third. Will be discussed at future meetings, change to be implemented at next planning meeting in August.
3. **Members are also requested to consider** if another night might be better for meeting. (Proposed by Hal Breffle later in meeting).
  - a. Thursday is a big school event and sports night.
  - b. Wednesday is often a big Church night.
  - c. Troop at one time had meetings on Tuesday, but was changed hoping to allow more people to go to Roundtable.
  - d. Monday nights following camping trips might not be well attended.

## **Newsletter and Communications (Open, Jeff Glaze doing temporarily)**

1. Need brief submissions for inclusion in newsletter each month. **Each committee member** should give even only a paragraph of what they might need to communicate to troop (boys or parents) in newsletter (otherwise Jeff will get creative).

## **Treasurer (Mike LaPrade, present)**

1. Oct. 31 balance: \$7427.68, includes approx. \$1300 in popcorn money
2. Bob Melton reimbursed for Philmont
3. Need to pay popcorn invoice to Council
  - a. \$1337.00 posted so far
  - b. Still have \$749.00 to collect
  - c. Unit Commission of \$1259 collected so far
  - d. \$3599.00 total sales
  - e. High Sales – Andy Costner, earned Camp Stove with \$428.00 of sales.
    - i. Second Highest – J.T. Sparks, \$25.00 REI gift cert.
    - ii. Third Highest – Joseph Clements
    - iii. Each boy will have personal account credit proportional to his popcorn order. Money may be used however they want.
    - iv. Prizes requested were ordered, if not specified, Jeff and Mike made selection.
1. Question arose regarding a CD from past that was never cashed in. Questions to past treasurers and bank account managers have been unable to trace nay records of it. Kendra remembered the CD but had no records, and the next treasurer also had no records.



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## **Community Service/Good Turn (Del Price, present)**

2. Jeff and Del have both communicated with Church about service opportunities, but have not had good response.
3. Scouts have given frustratingly poor response to community service ops.
  - a. Jeff and Bob have suggested rank advancement community service come from activities with the Church to encourage participation (unless boy has particular time crunch and gets another project approved).
1. Del would like to offer more than quarterly projects if they can be found.
  - a. Parents should encourage the boys, emphasize this time given is a good thing.
1. Del to find out when next Church workday will be.
2. Cub Scouts have been active in watershed study in conjunction with Oglethorpe; this is an ongoing project over last several years.
3. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> is clean up day at Brook Run organized by Cub Scouts.
4. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> is Dekalb day of service to schools (mentioned earlier).

## **Advancement Chairman (Jack Linder, present)**

1. November: (?) merit badges (someone coughed) and 3 rank advancements (scout, first class and star).
2. Board of Review procedures reviewed.
  - a. Not a pass/fail procedure. Scout may be asked to do more work as a positive development to his character.
  - b. Board assumes that Scoutmaster has done his job.
  - c. Review is to see how scout has developed: leadership, service, and spirit.
    - i. Have they performed the duties of a leadership position or only held the position in title?
    - ii. Leadership skills are very important. Mr. Melton commented that Scoutmasters should be reviewing "What have you done and how have you done it?"
    - iii. Board should be looking to the improvement of the scout, and requests are aimed toward this goal. A request to do more work should perhaps even be more common.
    - iv. Since interaction with adults outside of parents is one of the goals of advancement, parents should generally not sign off for their own boys. This also enhances appearance in eyes of peers, as well as follows BSA policy.
    - v. Board should pull aside boys who haven't advanced in a while and see where they are with regard to their goals.
1. March 20<sup>th</sup> is next NESAs day. Jeff requested we get flyers for this and begin promoting to boys now.
2. Eagle Advancement (Bob Melton)
  - a. Danny Gibbons completed requirements, getting recommendations, may do Eagle B.O.R. in Nov. or Dec.
  - b. Harrison Bain also close enough to possible do B.O.R. in Dec.
  - c. Ben Kiesel, Steven Thomas, John Bever, and Ross Gamble are further from completion.

## **Equipment and Facilities (Hal Breffle, present)**

1. Jeff and Hal to put in Front Door.
2. Fire Extinguisher coming in soon
3. Re-lamping Quartermaster room – 2 current will be replaced, 2 more added. 2 new fixtures already in room.
  - a. Need more light bulbs (Mark to get from Church per charter organization agreement unless Hal (? Voice on tape) has extra to provide from his office.)
1. Hal would like to speak to Quartermaster Joey Laprade when he gets a chance.



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2. Troop supplies no longer include non-essential or broken equipment. New equipment has been added to cookware.
  - a. Need to get matches and also long lighter.
1. Jeff requested Hal to research where plans for new scout hut are.
  - a. New facility needs more storage space.
  - b. Also needs display area.

### Membership (Henry Fisher, present)

1. Thank you to Mark for recruiting effort through church bulletins. No new recruits have resulted from the most recent effort, but we will try again on Scout Sunday in February.
2. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Webelos will visit Scout meeting again.
  - a. Last week's visit disappointing to both visiting Webelos and parents.
    - i. Not efficiently run.
    - ii. Parents disappointed with our effort in light of all positive comments heard beforehand.
    - iii. Troop should have program for all meetings so visitors can see this whenever they might come.
  - b. Cold weather camping will be program for next meeting in anticipation of joint Webelos/Scout camping trip in December.
1. Troop 266 joined our troop's evening activities on the last camping trip (their own troop's activities were inappropriately arduous for Webelos. They have no liaison between Pack and Troop, and simply expect Webelos to join their troop.)
  - a. The leaders said they would use the outing for their Arrow of Light, which would be a potential stretch.
  - b. Our leaders did not know this what their intention.
1. Henry attended recent Webelos Woods; some of the other packs may be joining us on the December trip.

### Health & Safety (Wendy Gibbons, absent)

2. Unsure as to status of health forms. Troop requests Wendy to bring records up to date for the new year.
3. Hal asked that the First Aid Kit be brought up to date (more Wendy's area than equipment)

### Hospitality co-chair (Nancy Farrey, absent)

4. Sending of cards to families recently greatly appreciated by all recipients.

### Training Chairman (Joseph Clements, present)

1. Fast Start and Youth Protection no online.
  - a. Can get tape if we prefer (Youth Protection is approx. 2 hours)
  - b. Youth Protection must be updated every 3 years.
1. Troop is in need of adult trained in Climb on Safely. (Still also needs other qualified expert to do climbing activities).
2. Woodbadge Training will be held 3 times next year.
  - a. Two 3-day weekends split between March and April, with 2 meetings between.
  - b. Weeklong session at Woodruff last week in July. (Suggested this would be most enjoyable).
  - c. Two 3-day weekends in fall.

### Senior Patrol Leader's Report (Harrison Bain, absent)

1. No report from Harrison.



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2. Troop requests that **Harrison** make sure Patrol leaders do their jobs.

### **Scoutmaster's Report (Jeremy Webber acting for Bob Melton)**

3. Eagle candidates discussed above.
4. Last Meeting in December to be Service Project en lieu of meeting.
  - a. In past have delivered food and gifts to 2 families.
  - b. Bob requested Committee to get names of couple of families from Church (**Steve Heimler?**)
1. Troop has requested 2 crew spots for Philmont 2005 (now chosen by lottery).
  - a. Trip could be good Woodbadge ticket.
1. Jamboree is also in 2005 end of July or first of August.
  - a. Applications probably accepted in January.
  - b. Cost estimated to be around \$1200 -\$1400.
1. Jeff will be at meeting Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> to learn if/which Philmont spots we received as well as more information about Jamboree.
2. Council does have slots for Philmont for next summer. (min. age 14).
3. **Discussion about Patrol** sizes, natural attrition.
  - a. Discussed idea of moving newer boys into existing patrols with older boys.
    - i. Webelos may be expecting to stay together when they join troop.
    - ii. May be a "turn-off" to newer recruits.
    - iii. Better accomplishes goals of Boy Scouting.
  - a. Often older boys get Eagle and then stop attending meetings.
  - b. Could suggest that current patrols divide up into other patrols so older boys would not have only youngest members.
  - c. Suggestion to keep newest boys together for summer camp and let them know they will be divided up after that. This will allow them to get to know boys and get comfortable with those.
  - d. **General impression**: Move newer boys into existing patrols after summer camp, keeping at least 2 newer members together after the move.

**Committee Meeting adjourned** at 8:50 PM. Next Meeting Monday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 PM.