



# Troop 477 Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

**Committee Chairman** Jeff Glaze called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Attendees: Jeff Glaze, Peter Bain, Joseph Clements, Walt LaRoche, Mike LaPrade, Mark Botsch, Del Price, Nancy Farry and Carolyn Sparks. Latecomers from the PLC meeting: Jeremy Weber and Bruce Lendeman,

## **Committee Reports:**

**Troop Committee Secretary** Minutes from July meeting approved. Carolyn Sparks arrived a few minutes late to take minutes.

**Camping Chairman** Peter Bain present.

Secretary arrived in middle of discussion of need to re-create lists for the April and May camp outs. Jeremy Weber had told Peter Bain that he had submitted a list for April; Jack Linder said he would look for this report. Also, checked in the right hand column of last Thursday's role call list are the boys who attended the July camping trip to Lake Rabun. Jeff emphasized that we need to get into the habit of reporting these attendances to Jack as soon as possible after the camping trips. This information needs to be given to Jack Linder for records and advancement reasons. Jack Linder said he would try to be present at time of departure for trips so when role call is done, he can make an accurate list then. This is also where the Troop Scribe (J.T. Sparks) could be helpful as a backup. We currently are missing these lists for April (caving trip) and May (Panther Creek).

**Philmont Report:** Since Tom Bever couldn't be present, he had emailed a report to Jeff Glaze. Eleven scouts and seven adults had a great trip. Tom recommends that the troop send one crew (eight scouts and four adults) for next year or the year after because it is such a great bonding experience and will help the retention of the scouts in the troop. Tom Bever has put together a memo explaining the planning and all he needed to do for the trip to happen. (Thank you Tom!) He also recommends any boys thinking about Philmont should work on their Hiking and Backpacking merit badges beforehand. Bob Melton is putting together a Power Point presentation of pictures taken on the Philmont trip for an upcoming meeting. All of the scouts had disposable cameras, and the adults had other cameras, so they took lots of great pictures that are being compiled into a CD photo album. Jack Linder and Jeff Glaze have been discussing the possibility of putting together CD photo albums of the camping trips to be available to all scouts for a minimal charge, such as one dollar, since they cost 60-70 cents to make. Jack already has approximately 200 photos of various different times. Anyone who has any scouting-related photos they would like to see put into an album for 2003, send them to Jack Linder for inclusion. Tom Bever would also like to see some sort of permanent Philmont display on the wall of the scout hut to try to encourage interest in Philmont. The final note about the Philmont trip was that though the troop had reserved 15 passenger vans from the company there, only 12 passenger vans were available, so the troop received a 10% discount. This company was the only one available from which to rent the vans.

Walt LaRoche brought up the fact that the National Council has received the donation for a new facility a couple of hours south of Philmont that will be open for camping next year. This is a much larger place than Philmont, so there should be no waiting list. If the troop should want to go to a place that is a little wilder, no tradition, but something different, they could camp there the first year it is available. The National Council Website has information about this camp (H Ranch?). It will be a little harder to get to, no staff and no tradition, but might offer a memorable experience and a first year patch.



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August 4, 2003

Jeff Glaze hopes to have a Power Point presentation ready by this Thursday's meeting about Backpacking trips so the boys can give their patrol leaders input about where they want to go. This info is currently on the website in an unfinished form, but should be completed by Thursday.

**Committee Chairman's Report:** Jeff Glaze

Nothing specific to report about, so skip on to next report.

**Chartered Organization Representative** Mark Botsch was present. Jeff forwarded to Steve Handler information about the Norcross UMC God and Country and God and Family program to let him know that it is being offered by other churches, hoping to encourage him to begin the program here. **It would be nice to find some way to encourage Steve to begin the program.** The suggestion was even made to collect a list of boys interested to give to Steve. The program is available to all groups, including the Girl Scouts and Church members, but the boys get a knot for their uniform as well as a medal.

Scout Hut phone bill has not yet been resolved. Mark stated he hadn't seen John yet to discuss it. Though the fixing of the doors had been mentioned as a bargaining chip at last meeting, Mark said he would like to get the phone problem resolved first since the Church will want to reconcile the cost. Mike Laprade mentioned that the labor to fix the door still could be a bargaining chip.

**Unit Commissioner** Paul Porwoll was absent but had said he would not be coming to every meeting. Walt LaRoche was present to report.

Program Planning Roundtable will be Saturday, August 9 in the morning, so someone from the troop needs to be there to pick up the packet.

There is a new Braves Night on a Tuesday night Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> (we think), and a White Water trip September 7<sup>th</sup>. The dates have all been put on the website.

Boy Scout Leader Training will be offered in the fall either every Wed. or Thurs. night in September and then the first or second weekend in October.

Commissioner College is the last weekend of Sept. This is open to all adult registered scouters and is a very interesting training session. You can register either on the web or through the Hightower Trail website. Walt can independently email folks the course syllabus if they are interested.

There are two merit badge sessions to be offered. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> is the date of the fall NESA day at the West Georgia University. The other is the District Merit Badge Day.

Cobb Districts are putting on a multidistrict Scout Expo. The info for this event is on the Website, and any troops can sign up to participate by sponsoring a booth to demonstrate outdoor skills or any other activities they want to share. This is being sponsored in an effort to replace the Atlanta Area Scout show that hasn't happened for a number of years. The Hightower Trail District has had its Scout Show in the Spring for the last few years, but our troop has not participated. Jeff mentioned we should consider discussing this at the **planning session**, and maybe even consider participating in the camporee even though it isn't the usual camping weekend for the troop.

The calendar that will be in the packet to pick up this Saturday is already posted on the website.



# Troop 477 Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

**Newsletter and Communications** Jeff Glaze – information is on the website. Though the newsletter portion hasn't been kept completely up to date, he will be sending out more information about camping trips and such. People have been using the website for forms and permission slips. Jeff has also added a FAQ section for parents who are interested in how the troop runs.

**Treasurer** Mike LaPrade present to distribute report. After reconciling the account, Mike determined we have \$11,366 in the account. Approximately \$758.00 of deposits have not yet cleared the account. About \$660.00 in outstanding checks have not cleared as well.

Mike expressed concern that Josh Blanton still has \$1235.00 in our scout account. **Bob Melton** had committed at the last meeting to give Josh a call to see if he is going to be active. Mike mentioned that Josh is now living with his Mother but he hasn't seen him personally in a long time. The policy has always been that when a scout leaves the troop, any money left behind stays with the troop. However, since he Josh earned the money and the troop benefited from what he did, the committee may vote to reimburse the scout if they wish. Either **Bob Melton or Jeff Glaze** will follow up to see if Josh intends to continue to be active with the troop.

The last three pages of the report were reviewed, including more detail of the monthly income and expenses. It was noted that all the postings are up to date except for a few for the July camping trip. Jack Linder mentioned that from February there are a number of scouts who had credits in their accounts. Though the report only shows a \$500.00 difference, the details of that difference are available on the computer. The question was asked if an amount was ever decided as to how much to credit the accounts from that ski trip. Mike says we had come up with an amount though he couldn't come up with it at the moment. **Jack Linder and Mike LaPrade agreed to get together to resolve the individual accounts** for the February trip for next month's meeting.

Annual recharter is coming up, so dues will be collected. Recharter is the Committee Chairman's job, so Jeff will be sending out a letter to all scout families. Recharter is due the beginning of November, and dues will be due the end of November. **Jeff Glaze** intends to have recharter completed by the first troop meeting in December. There was some discussion about confusion already regarding solicitations being received from various BSA sources. The Council is still working on last year's campaign to raise money because they are way short. Our troop participated in fund raising by sending out a letter for FOS (Friends of Scouting, which took the place of SME). Mike mentioned he had received so much literature recently that he doesn't know what to pay and what not to pay. Jeff recommended that **if you want to give, give to FOS and when you fill out the form, put Troop 477.**

Jeff mentioned that for next year's summer camp, things not in the budget should not be purchased. **Bob Melton** will be taking the lead in planning the summer camp from the boy's perspective and Jeff will help with the organizational stuff. The history behind this was apparently that several years not enough food was supplied and the boys were hungry, so snacks have been purchased since then. Jeff suggested that snacks be purchased by going to the store from camp only if necessary. Otherwise, perhaps only a "cracker barrel" should be available for the Patrol Leader's meeting each night. Expenses need to be in the budget.

**Community Service/Good Turn** chairman Del Price was present. There is no date yet on the Charis House, which is the fall service project, but we know that Jack Devoe is in charge at Kingswood UMC. The person who was in charge last year at Holy Innocent's has moved so someone new is in charge, and we don't know if this will be a joint effort again or not. Jeff Glaze made the suggestion that the troop could do Dutch oven cooking on site. One of the volunteer jobs is supplying food for the workers.



# Troop 477 Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

**We also need to be thinking of a winter service project.** Jeff made the suggestion of helping a family in need or kids in foster care. In the case of the family, the goal in the past had been to supply a complete Christmas dinner for the family plus toys for the kids.

**Jeff Glaze** mentioned that he needed to get **Del** in touch with the Missions project person at Kingswood to more get more complete information about the service opportunities through the church. The church even goes on a Honduras mission trip on which scout members could participate if they wanted.

All service projects need to be pre-approved by the scoutmaster. Our goal is also to raise our visibility with the church and try to do things in association with them.

**Jeff Glaze** will find out the date for the fall work-day at the church to include in the planning weekend.

**Advancement Chairman** Jack Linder present.

During the month of July we had 2 scouts achieving a total of 3 rank advancements. Bradley Griffith advanced 2 ranks. There were also 5 merit badges awarded.

Jack passed out samples of a couple of reports regarding merit badges: one listing the scouts by name and which merit badges they were working on with last progress, and the other by merit badge listing which scouts were working on those badges. This allows us to see that some scouts are signed up for quite a few merit badges at the same time, so these boys should be directed to complete some of the badges they have started before starting more. The goal is for each scout to have an individual record that is up to date, for the list to be sorted by patrol, and then for **each Assistant Scout Master in charge** of the patrol to have these records so that he might more effectively direct the boys in their progress. Because the database is not yet complete, **Jack** wants to talk to Bob Melton about printing the list for each boy and have the boy review these records for accuracy. Also it is important that the boys turn in the paper work when they have finished with merit badges or rank advancements so that information may be entered on the computer for a permanent record. Again the attendance record can be of utmost importance to this effort. When we can see that a group of scouts is lacking only a small set of requirements towards a merit badge, we can attempt to urge these to completion in upcoming trips and meetings. This list also can indicate scouts who have not advanced one rank over the last 12 months.

Jack also mentioned that Joseph wanted the training records entered onto the computer so if **Jack gets those records**, he can make sure that happens.

The patches for the Stingray Patrol have arrived (custom made), though there was some discussion as to how many members of the Stingray patrol are still with the troop. Several have moved.

There was discussion about the **procedure to follow for records to be updated.** Each patrol mailbox should have the individual histories for the ASM to review with each boy. The accuracy of these histories should be verified by the ASM, reconcile any differences and make sure books are signed, and put the report back in the advancement chairman's box. The Scribe may help Jack enter the data onto the computer, but he is not a point of contact for the boys or ASM in this case. Jack did say that if the boy has things signed in his book and would like to bring the



# Troop 477 Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

computer record up to date to agree with the book, the boy can bring that directly to Jack and he will update it if he has the time.

Jeff Glaze did mention that he sent out the above mentioned records to each boy via email a couple of weeks ago. Though some attendees mentioned difficulty opening certain attachments that Jeff sends out, these may be dropped to the desktop, and then opened through the reading program.

**Equipment and Facilities** chairman Hal Breffle (absent).

The storage cabinets have new padlocks, and the keys to those padlocks are in the key box. The combination has been changed from 477 to 411, but this number should NOT be given to any of the boys. Access to those cabinets should be limited only to adults or boys who have adult permission.

**Membership Chairman** Henry Fisher not present but he emailed a brief report stating that he will be scheduling training for den chiefs soon and will have fliers in the middle school on registration day. He also **needs volunteers to help him man tables on registration day**. Any volunteers? Boys also would be ideal to relate their experience. Henry is also actively working on the Webelos to Scout transition with the Pack.

**Hospitality** co-chair Nancy Farrey present, Sara Costner absent. The next court of honor is approaching, will be large, and will likely be late September or early October, October possibly being better. Preference as to having dessert or dinner was left to the **planning session** and decision by the boys. **Jeremy Weber** was asked to relate this info to Bob Melton for that purpose.

Paul Weber's Eagle Court of Honor has a tentative date of September 18<sup>th</sup>, and he requested **Mark Botsch check** to see if the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary would be available that evening.

**Training Chairman** **Joseph Clements** present. Summarized upcoming events (also on the website). Woodbadge course upcoming will be full soon if not already (weekends of Sept. 19-20 and Oct. 10-12), but the course will also be offered as a week-long course next summer. Button Gwinnett will be offering Leader Essentials once a month some on weekends and some on week days. Other offerings include Outdoor Leader Skills, and Red Cross Wilderness First Aid on Nov. 15-16 at Bert Adams. **Joseph will email** out info regarding this last offering.

The BSA is in the process of changing most of their first aid requirements to be those of the American Red Cross, so we will see changes for adults and boys over the next few years.

**Senior Patrol Leader's Report** Harrison Bain was present at the PLC. Fortunately they only had to plan one month since they had to make phone calls to get adequate attendance and representation of most of the patrols. Wilderness Survival will be this Thursday, the following will be Eagle Court of Honor, and the final two will be Northern Tier presentation and Philmont presentation so boys will know what is available. The PLC also did brainstorming as prep work for the planning session. Stingray patrol was not represented nor was Diamondback patrol.

**Scoutmaster's Report:** Bob Melton couldn't be present (his mother had surgery). Jeff Glaze reporting.

Josh Weiner's Eagle Court of Honor will be August 14<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at regular meeting time. Everyone should be present in class A uniforms.



# Troop 477 Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

Bob also is asking the committee to approve an award for the Spirit of Scouting in memory of Doug Breffle. This would be given each August chosen by the Scout Master to the scout showing exceptional scout spirit. Estimated cost could be as much as \$200.00. Approval by the board was unanimous.

Bob will be having a meeting Thursday night after the regular meeting **for all the Assistant Scout Masters as well as Committee Chairman and Advancement Chairman**. Bob will review his philosophy and how he expects the scoutmasters to counsel and interact with the boys. He will also be discussing some advancement concerns. Jeff reviewed the fact that we need to be letting the boys ask their patrol leaders before the adults, and the adults shouldn't do things the boys can do. This might also be a good time to bring up any adjustments in patrol rosters that the Assistant Scout Masters think appropriate (to increase the number in the Stingray, etc.).

**Committee Meeting adjourned** at 8:35 PM.

Next committee meeting is Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> (Labor Day), 2003 at 7:30 PM.