



Troop 477 Committee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2003

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

Attendees: Jeff Glaze, Hal Breffle, Jeremy Webber, Peter Bain, Andy Costner, Henry Fisher, Joseph Clements, Tom Bever, Jack Linder, Wendy Gibbons, Mark Botsch, Carolyn Sparks, Nancy Farrey, Sara Costner, Bob Melton, and Del Price.

Committee Reports:

Troop Committee Secretary Minutes from April minutes approved. Jeff Glaze had taken notes for Carolyn Sparks who was absent. All present indicated they had ultimately received minutes via email. Goal is to publish minutes ASAP after the meeting to ensure that participants are reminded of discussions and commitments made.

Camping Chairman Peter Bain reported on status and changes in upcoming outings. May Backpacking at Panther Creek Falls planning discussion ensued. Campmaster Bob Melton reported that we do have a tour permit for this trip with 5-mile hike. This is a training trip for Philmont. Permission slips and trip info. are on Troop Web page. Deadline for signing up for this trip extended to this Thursday (May 8th).

July Water Sports weekend moved to July 11th-13th. Matt Bickerstaff will be campmaster, since the activities will take place at his newly renovated house on Lake Rabun. Discussion on who would have boats to bring ensued. Ultimately named that Mike Laprade, Jeremy Webber, Hal Breffle, and Mac Bickerstaff to have boats. Still need to see to it that sufficient leadership has Safety Afloat and Safe Swim certification. We want the boys to get advancement requirements during this weekend. Need forms for July trip available shortly after summer camp.

Philmont Crew Planning discussion, Tom Bever is Campmaster. We have the form from Philmont regarding shirts. A travel agent has been contacted to investigate better deals on vans to Colorado Springs. Some training hikes of 1-2 nights with Troop 266 are being planned before summer camp in June. No dates yet. (Troop 266 is not going to Philmont the same week as Troop 477). Steve Bancroft will be joining the Philmont crew instead of John Farrey.

Summer Camp Planning underway, Wendy Gibbons coordinating. Wendy reported that 21 scouts are currently signed up to go to summer camp: 4 older scouts (Danny Gibbons, Jonathan Liem, Chris Norman, and Thomas Webber), 7 of the Cougar Patrol, 8 younger new scouts plus 2 more from Troop 764 to make 10 Mountain Men. Adults going: Wendy Gibbons, Don Farrey, Bob Melton, David Fessendon, and Hal Breffle splitting the week with Jeff Glaze. Medical forms are coming in but not all have been received. Driving arrangements need to be made; the bus has been reserved but must have a trained driver. Senior patrol leader to be decided when the adults meet. Mr. Glaze will send an email reminding that the summer camp letter is on the web site. Boys can attend a portion of summer camp but need to let Wendy know how many meals they will need to be organized in advance.

Committee Chairman Jeff Glaze reminded all that the District Banquet will be on May 18th at Kingswood UMC. The troop will pay one half of the cost for the first 8 Troop 477 adults to sign up. Those present saying they would attend: J. Glaze, B. Melton, J. Webber, H. Breffle, P. Bain, J. Linder, and T. Bever.

Henry Fisher was welcomed as the new Membership Chairman.

Chartered Organization Representative Mark Botsch was present. Mr. Glaze had lunch with the Rev. Dave Benson who is interested in seeing the God and Country Program made available. The church has a new pastor they feel might be right for the job. We will pursue having him as



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Chaplain so that the Chaplain's Aide position might be made available again for the first time in 6 months. Mr. Botsch to pursue from here.

Discussion ensued of overdue phone bill to Church. For unknown reasons, the Troop stopped paying the bill in 1998. Though the price dropped from the \$13.99/ month to \$12.45/month over this time and the phone didn't work an estimated 10% of the time, the Troop still is overdue to the church a significant amount of money. Mr. Botsch to talk with John (the Church Treasurer) to negotiate forgiving half the amount owed, paying the balance, and having the phone removed from the scout hut.

Unit Commissioner Paul Porwoll was absent. Henry Fisher will be attending the District Roundtable Tuesday May 13th and will be teaching Youth Protection. New Leader Essentials will also be available, though none of the committee appeared to need that particular training. All were reminded that Youth Protection now needs to be updated every TWO years.

Newsletter and Communications Jeff Glaze is maintaining e-mailing list and web page. Glynn Gamble has been working on updating the directory with intention to be ready to distribute May 8th at Court of Honor.

Treasurer Mike LaPrade was not present but financial reports of any amount of detail desired are available on the Troop Ledger Software.

Community Service/Good Turn chairman Del Price reported that 6 or 7 scouts and 2 adults were well received at the Kingswood Mission Market. Lots of burgers were cooked and the boys attending will receive needed Activity hours vs. Service hours. The service provided by the troop will be commended by the Church in the upcoming service bulletin.

Discussion ensued of having the Charis House project as the next service project for third quarter. These projects generally begin in September and activities can count toward the Home Repair Merit Badge. Committee agreed to do this project. Boys will be divided up to get more accomplished by all.

A final service project will be planned later for around Christmas time.

Advancement Chairman Jack Linder reported that script for Court of Honor is nearly complete. He has tried to create a format that may be used in future Courts of Honor. The script and list of advancements was given to Andy Costner, so secretary does not have list to include here. Adults who have presentations need to get these to Jack Linder ASAP. Corky Gibbons will have ski trip awards.

Mention was made that the Troop Scribes are doing very well and are very helpful to the Advancement Chairman.

Paul Webber's Eagle Board of Review may be on May 11th (Mother's Day), but may need to be changed for that reason. He turns 18 in June. Board Members attending depends on day chosen.

Blake Zimmerman will be having his Eagle Court of Honor on May 22nd at the Dunwoody Nature Center, as that is where he completed his project. Mr. Botsch will see if the bus is available that evening for transportation from the Church to the DNC.



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Josh Weiner will be planning his Eagle Court of Honor in June or July. Paperwork has already been submitted.

The Troop Court Of Honor is scheduled for May 8th. There was discussion of changing the format to boys staying in the audience and coming to the stage by patrol to be introduced. This adds to the audience and allows the scouts to sit with their families. By announcing rank advancements and awards by patrol, the presentations would likely be more orderly. Senior Patrol Leader Andy Costner decided this method would be tried Thursday.

Equipment and Facilities chairman Hal Breffle reported on requests from Quartermaster and Patrol Leader's Council. A brief review of the list indicated the need to build a lantern box with cushioning for the fragile lantern globes. This would allow the lanterns to be carried in the trailer. Most of the Troop lanterns need new globes. Also were mentioned to eliminate the aluminum cookware and change to steel for durability reasons. Finally, backpacking tents and backpacking camp stoves were requested, along with miscellaneous disposables such as toilet paper. Troop Committee had discussion as to how much these items might cost and when they would be needed and approved \$850.00 for the items listed, to be purchased at the earliest convenient time to be prepared (seal seams on tents) before Philmont.

Regarding First Phase Improvement of the Church, no dates have been set. The Scout Hut will be taken down, but this could be as far away as a year or two.

Membership Chairman Henry Fisher submitted a detailed report. Therein are plans to focus on recruitment outside the Kingswood Pack (because of the current gap between boys close to Eagle and those next in line to attain Eagle Rank), as well as plans to recruit from Cub Scout Packs.

He highlights summertime recruitment flyers to attract boys to activities over the traditionally quieter summer months. Flyers are to be available by 5/15/03.

School registration recruitment is a better time to recruit than the traditional scout night in September. A booth, with pictures, troop info., signup sheets, contact info, and invitations to a show-and-do event, will be put together for Peachtree Charter Middle, Chamblee Middle, and the Church during the August registration, and will need volunteers.

A show-and-do recruitment event will be planned on a Saturday in early September. Patrol Leader Council requested to put this on their calendar. This event will be designed with various hands-on activities designed to make the boys curious about Boy Scouting and provide parents with information about Boy Scouting and our Troop. The event should run no more than 3 hours, and will include such things as games, and backpacking and gear demos, with older scouts running the activities.

We need to get more of the boys to volunteer as Den Chiefs. Two have signed up so far. This is a great opportunity to learn leadership and teaching techniques and to get credit for their Leadership requirements for rank advancement. Each Den meets 2-3 hours each month so this wouldn't require a lot of time. A signup sheet is on the board.

Webelos2 will be attending the troop planning meeting before the joint campout to get prepared. The Troop should encourage a good representation at the March 2004 crossover, especially the 1st and 2nd year scouts to welcome the new scouts.



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The Troop should be encouraged to participate with the Pack in their events, especially the campouts. Even attending the main activity day on Saturday would be beneficial, and scouts would earn service hours by helping with games, teaching skills, and helping with the campfire program.

Mr. Fisher requested a list of scouts that have recently dropped out and the percent of Eagle Scouts in our troop for the last couple of years. He wants to contact those who have dropped to learn why and see if they can be encouraged back into action.

The report details talking to Barry Deutsch, Cubmaster of Pack 477, about meeting with Webelos 1&2 den leaders shortly after Pack crossover to discuss what the Webelos-to-Scouts transition is and how it prepares boys to crossover to the troop, and how the troop will be involved with helping with this preparation.

Mr. Fisher will be using the handouts generated by Bruce Lindemann last year as information for parents unfamiliar with Boy Scouts.

The Joint Campout should perhaps be shifted to October or mid-November. Though it is good for the Cub Scouts to learn that Boy Scouts operate in all weather, some will not be continuing in scouting, and asking them to prepare for a one-time extreme weather outing can be discouraging. The joint campout is essential to showing the boys the cooperative nature of Boy Scouting.

Hospitality co-chairs Nancy Farrey and Sara Costner will be having chocolate chip cookies at the Court of Honor. These will be served after the awards are given. No additional help will be required for this simple but delicious dessert.

Training Chairman Joseph Clements reported that he will be contacting all adults regarding their training credentials and dates. He will also publish surrounding district training opportunities to provide a greater number of opportunities to attain needed training.

Senior Patrol Leader Andy Costner was present and reported that the patrol leader's council has planned the May programs. There will be 2 programs. During the one following the backpacking trip, a fully loaded backpack will be available to discuss what was used and what was not and how to improve. May 22nd is Blake Zimmerman's Eagle Court of Honor at DNC. May 29th will be a backpacking cooking demonstration.

June 5th will be the only program requiring plan in June. Mention was made of building the gate for the quartermaster's room. Summer Camp occurs during the second week and June 26th will entail moving equipment from summer camp back into quartermaster room. Any projects for a Fourth of July parade float, etc. will be the other primary activity. This project has not been planned at this time.

A suggestion was made to have a meeting for scouts not going to summer camp. There should be enough adults remaining at home to have a meeting.

The Memorial Day activity was not discussed at PLC. This will be on the Saturday before Memorial Day and can be either a Troop Activity or Service. It May be a 4-hour activity, leaving the Church around 8:30 a.m. Sign up list will be posted. The importance of this activity should be emphasized to the boys.



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July Program Patrol is the Cobra Patrol. Wendy Gibbons is working with Ben Doitch, the new patrol leader to have programs on Health Care.

Scoutmaster Bob Melton stated again the plans of upcoming Eagle Courts of Honor (Blake Zimmerman), Board or Review (Paul Webber), and Court of Honor to be planned (Josh Weiner).

The need to come up with or review a Quartermaster process was discussed. The gate planned will be intended to keep scouts out of the room. They need to be sure they sign out what they use on the meeting prior to camping trips and take responsibility to return it clean on the meeting following camping trips. No equipment should be signed out on the day of said trips, and a better system needs to be devised than putting the equipment in the middle of the floor upon the return of these trips.

Mr. Glaze suggested that on camping trips, the adults should either form a patrol of their own or join with various patrols to help create a role model. Mr. Melton said this has been done in the past and for the adults to be a separate patrol is the best method of providing example.

For summer camp, Patrol Advisors need to be assigned to Mongoose and Cobra Patrols. Mr. Glaze and Mr. Melton to come up with these assignments.

Troop elections are scheduled for the last week of June. Senior Patrol Leader needs to talk to potential Senior Patrol Leaders to see who would be interested.

Trinity School has great opportunities for Eagle Projects. This information will be sent to all Life Scouts.

Scouts not going to summer camp are needed at Cub Scout Summer Camp at Oglethorpe University. This is a wonderful outreach opportunity. The camp is in need of first class or higher scouts to help leaders work with cub scouts over the course of the week, or if unable to attend the entire week, to help with single activities. A bonus will be that during lunch break, these volunteer scouts can shoot BB's or Bow and Arrow as much as they want.

Finally, the need for review of the camping policy was discussed. The boys should be camping as if on a backpacking trip every time, but apparently need a reminder of this (Some were using a 6 man tent). Other problems mentioned were the bringing of juice boxes and inappropriate food. Mr. Breffle and Mr. Webber were asked to email to Mr. Melton specific items that came up at the last camping trip so that these items could be discussed in greater detail at PLC and/or a later meeting.

Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next committee meeting is Monday June 2, 2003 at 7:30 PM.