



# THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

February 3, 2004; Volume 9, Issue 2

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As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation-minded.

## Eagle Updates



### Eagle Court of Honor

**David Markman** will hold his Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, February 8 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church at 2 p.m. All Scouts and Scouters are welcome. Congratulations, David.

## February Activities

### MERIT BADGE MADNESS

Meetings this month will be used for merit badge classes. More than 50 scouts will be working on over 130 merit badges this month! Classes will meet for about one hour each Tuesday according to the schedule listed.

Scouts should come to the meetings this month, pencil and paper in hand, prepared to learn and to get "homework" assignments. Most scouts will have one open Tuesday night that can be used for scoutmaster conferences, boards of review, independent work on merit badges or welcoming visiting Webelos.

Our campout will be held Feb. 27-29 at Camp St. Croix, where we will continue merit badge classes and take a Saturday night trip to Afton Alps for skiing/snowboarding. The ski trip is optional (but lots of fun) for those not taking the Snow Sports merit badge.

Let's work hard this month and earn a ton of merit badges for the March Court of Honor!

- **February 3**  
Emergency Preparedness, Personal Management, Radio, Computers (group 1)
- **February 10**  
Art, Fire Safety, Law, Citizenship in the Community
- **February 17**  
Snow sports, Citizenship in the World, Computers (group 2), Citizenship in the Nation (group 1)
- **February 24**  
Electricity, Citizenship in the Nation (group 2), Communications

**Lead Instructors:** Art: Beth Meester; Citizenship in the Community: Steve Brennaman; Citizenship in the Nation: Bill Brown; Citizenship in the World: Don Qually; Communications: Beth Smith; Computers: Boon Tan; Electricity: Kevin Opitz; Emergency Preparedness: Anne Kollmeyer; Fire Safety: John Wolfram; Law: Julie Sherman; Personal Management: Fred Haggerty; and Radio: Dale Blomgren.

## Calendar of Events

February 3	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling; Board of Review
February 5	OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
February 7-8	OA Winter Event, Oak Point Intermediate (5 pm – 6 am)
February 8	Scout Sunday (11 am) (all Scouts attend service at Prairie Lutheran)
February 8	David Markman Eagle Court of Honor, 2 p.m., St. Andrew Lutheran Church
February 10	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
February 17	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Eagle BOR (7 pm) United Methodist
February 24	SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
February 27-29	Merit Badge Madness, Camp St. Croix
February 29	Reconnaissance Articles Due
March 2	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); New Scouts join; Friends of Scouting nominations; aluminum can recycling; Board of Review
March 4	OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
March 9	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Troop Elections
March 13	Many Point Orientation Mtg.
March 16	SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm) Patrol Elections; Eagle BOR (7 pm) United Methodist; Leader Training #1, Christ Presbyterian
March 18	Eagle Preview (7 pm) Christ Presbyterian
March 20	Woodbadge Breakfast; Troop Winter Sports Activity, Afton Alps; Leader Training #2, Christ Presbyterian
March 23	Committee & PLC Mtgs. (6:30 pm); SM Mtg. (7:30 pm)
March 27	Jr. Leader Training (9 am), Prairie Lutheran
March 30	Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm)
April 11	Reconnaissance Articles Due

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.



### Scoutmaster's Corner by Steve Brennaman

McLeod and I were driving around yesterday in the snow so he could learn the finer points of driving in Minnesota when it occurred to me that people ignore many traffic laws just because the snow makes driving really bad.....

**As I see it....** Being Obedient is not a sometime thing where we can choose which rules to follow or not to follow based upon what or how we feel. What would happen if that were the case? I can tell you the community, our country and the world would be a very dangerous and unhealthy place to live.

We all want to be free to do what we want to do, wear the clothes we want to wear, and to say what we want when we want to. These are all nice things to want but there is a price to pay. We have rules to make our lives safe and free from strife (worry). Rules and laws are not made to restrict us but to protect us from the problems from life and society.

Not all rules make sense to us all of the time but they are still there and a scout is obedient all of the time even if the rules do not make sense. What are you to do? If a rule doesn't make sense find out why the rule is there and see if it needs to be changed. If it needs to be changed, work with your parents, Scout leaders or teachers to find a way to fix the problem. Disobeying the rules is not the answer.

As you learn to drive, go to school, or play a game remember the rules have a reason for being there so just do not disobey them because it is "snowing" or something else that makes you think the rules do not apply to you.

I am proud to be a Scouter and an American.

### SDL Report by Derek Clemmings

We're one month through the new year, and all seems to be going well. The troop went to Wisconsin for a similar to North Winds experience. Same thing, only different play I am told. Also I hope everyone enjoyed the Buck Hill ski trip.

Coming up this month, we will be having the annual Merit Badge Madness which I hope everyone will attend and have fun at. See everyone around.

### Patrol News

**BALD EAGLES:** Kyle Kronlokken, Patrol Leader  
The bald eagles have been doing great this past month. In January we went to Tomahawk Scout Reservation with the Snow Huskies program and went cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, played broomball and did an obstacle course. We did all this in -10° weather. Luckily, we got to sleep in a heated cabin. We are planning the April campout and this is our first time planning a campout, so I hope we do well.

**HUSKIES:** Ross Sherman, Patrol Leader  
Four Huskies went on the winter campout. It was cold. The huskies are still planning on a high adventure for this summer.

**LAKOTAS:** McLeod Brennaman, Patrol Leader  
The Lakotas finished off January with Nick Smith holding his Eagle Court of Honor and Taylor recently completing his Eagle Board of Review. We're looking forward to hosting March activities for the troop. The theme is first aid.

**WOLVERUNNERS:** John Lewis, Patrol Leader

**RAPTORS:** Eric Gatto, Patrol Leader

**FALCONS:** Brian Smith, Troop Guide  
As troop guide, I recently have not had to do as much as in the beginning. We worked on merit badges and learned about survival in the winter. We learned what to do if you were lost in the woods during the winter.

**FALCONS:** Dan Polta, Patrol Leader  
For the January campout we went to Tomahawk Scout Reservation in Wisconsin. While we were there we went cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and played broomball. During the first game of broomball it was warm enough that some of us took off two or three layers. We slept in a cabin that had 18 bunk beds -- and most of them were full -- while the older scouts slept in snow shelters. The following weekend a lot of people went to the Webelos recruiting activity at the Staring Lake Nature Center in which we went ice bowling, Klondike racing (like sled dog racing with humans pulling you), and ice fishing. Unfortunately, nobody caught a fish but there was a lot of fun in the other two activities. For our last January Troop meeting we went to Buck Hill to snowboard or ski. Most of the kids thought it was cold but fun.

### Troop Leadership Reports

**Quartermaster Report by Josh Isaacs**  
Hey guys, I am just reminding you about the Merit Badge Madness. You will not need as much equipment as you usually do. Let's have a blast and rocket down the slopes when we go to the ski/snow boarding hills. As you know, the new scouts will be joining the troop soon so let's give them a big welcome! In addition, we will need 2 - 3 new patrol boxes. I will inform the troop when we will get together to make them. That's it for now. Have a good February.

## Make A Difference

### Advancement Volunteer Opportunities by Lorraine Nickels

For the last two years, I have been the Advancement Chair for Troop 695. I have learned much in this role and it has been a fun experience too. Like many other parents of Scouts, I thought it was a little daunting to take on a role that I really didn't understand. I found, however, that help is available and that it really isn't difficult to manage. The rewards include a better understanding of Scout advancement, getting to know many of the boys in the troop better, and becoming more aware of opportunities that your own son may want to pursue.

The Advancement Committee initially consisted of Karen Tinucci, who supported families planning their Eagle Court of Honor, and me, managing Scout merit badge and rank advancement. In the time that I have been in this role, approximately 328 merit badges and 112 rank advancements, including 16 Eagles, have been awarded.

Now we have several parents who have stepped up to share some of the advancement responsibilities:

- **Joe Polta** is managing Eagle rank advancement, which includes reviewing Eagle application materials, participating in the Eagle Board of Review, and ensuring that the paperwork is accurate, complete, and appropriately submitted.
- **Mark Fairbrother** has agreed to participate as Advancement Assistant.
- **Glenn Vanic** has agreed to manage the Merit Badge Counselor activities, including recruitment and documentation of Counselors.
- **Pam Thuleen** has volunteered to coordinate Boards of Review (non-Eagle).

I have documented the responsibilities associated with advancement, to facilitate transition of the role from one volunteer to the next. However, the distribution of responsibility is flexible and can be redesigned by the Chair and his/her team members.

### We have an urgent need for Merit Badge Counselors (p. 5).

Please talk to Glenn Vanic or to Barbara Hanson and sign up for at least two or three merit badges. This is not a difficult responsibility and it really is interesting to see the interest and performance of different boys in completing their requirements. The only thing you really need to do is read the Merit Badge booklet, then when a boy requests you as counselor, you review his efforts in regards to the requirements and sign off on his blue card as appropriate (or advise him to do what is necessary to complete the requirement). You do not "teach" the merit badge (unless you sign up to do so at Merit Badge Madness) – it is the boy's responsibility to perform the activities and you merely provide limited guidance or direction, and verify whether he has met the requirements. You can view a list of merit badges on the web site (the Counselor List) or by checking an online resource such as <http://www.scouting.org/factsheets/02-500.html>. Please remember that none of the boys, your own included, can earn merit badges without volunteer counselors.

I also need someone to assume the role of Advancement Chair. Ideally this could be transitioned over a period of a few months – and with Merit Badge Madness approaching, this is the perfect time to get some experience coordinating one of the "busy" times of year. (The other busy merit badge time is the end of summer, following Many Point and summer vacation.) With the help of the above-mentioned volunteers, the Chair position is entirely manageable.

Please feel free to call me or approach me at a meeting if you want to discuss or have questions.

## Why Do We Need To Re-charter Each Year by John Tinucci

Scouting is unique among youth organizations. One of its most unusual characteristics is that it doesn't own or operate Scouting units. The ownership of our troop and crews is vested in other community organizations or groups that generally have as their main activity something other than Scouting. We are chartered by Prairie Lutheran Church.

The Scouting movement provides the program, technical help, and special facilities. The chartered organization provides an adequate, safe meeting place and dedicated, capable adult leadership, and adheres to the principles and policies of the BSA. We are considered a program of the church and we receive all our program materials, training and scouting opportunities through BSA. The church approves our leadership, although we, as parents, recruit other parents to become involved as leaders. The church allows us to raise our own funds to pay for our equipment and program expenses, but we are technically under their financial stewardship.

Through the strength and wisdom of this arrangement, millions of boys have benefited from Scouting. Without this unique working association, the program would be costly and limited to a very few boys. We get to take advantage of both a local place to meet as well as regional camping and outdoor facilities. We do not need to come up with ideas for activities each week, since we use program-planning tools that BSA provides.

Since 1916, when Congress granted a charter to the Boy Scouts of America, Scouting has granted charters to organizations. Scouting renews its national charter by reporting to Congress annually. Likewise, chartered organizations report to Scouting once each year to renew their local charters. This is a process we refer to as re-chartering. Several things happen as part of re-chartering. The church pays a small annual charter fee to BSA and signs a paper recommitting to support the troop for another year. Each scout and his family pay annual dues and recommit to participating and helping the troop. The dues go to pay for annual BSA registration, Boys Life subscription, accident insurance, and troop operating dues. (The scout pays for individual activities on a per activity basis.) Re-chartering also involves the church notifying BSA of the leaders responsible for the program.

So you can see that the annual re-charter process is the mechanism that allows our troop and crew to exist for another year. Our charter is due in April, which means we must complete our paperwork in March. **Each family will receive the required paperwork necessary to make this happen at the February parent meeting. Please complete the forms by the indicated date so we can make our deadline.**

## Baden-Powell: The Great Actor (Part 1) by Derrick Poirier

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, or B-P for short, was the founder of the Boy Scout program. In last month's article, his school days in the 1870s were described. He kept himself very busy with "extracurricular" activities including theater, sketching, sports, and music. The theatrical and artistic skills he developed as a boy served him well during his brilliant military career in the British army.

In 1890 B-P was assigned to be the intelligence officer for the Mediterranean area. His job was to "scout" the military capabilities of the various countries that had control of important ports on the Mediterranean Sea, especially France and Austria-Hungary. Since he was spying on other militaries for Britain, he had to keep his identity secret. When reconnoitering the shores of northern Africa, he would often pretend to be a sportsman on a "snipe hunt." He would sometimes play the part of a lost tourist and ask for directions when patrolling French soldiers spotted him. He always had to be prepared with a story and props to go with it in case he was discovered.

His most famous acting role during this period was that of the crazy butterfly hunter. He would dress as an insect collector and carry a net and sketchbooks in which he had drawn and painted butterflies that he was trying to find. He would wander around in plain site of the Austro-Hungarian soldiers guarding the fortified port of Cattaro (known today as Kotor, Montenegro) and would even approach them and ask if they had seen any of the butterflies he sketched or knew where he could find them. The soldiers would sometimes unknowingly give him important information during these discussions. Most of the people he showed his sketches to didn't know one butterfly from another and so didn't notice that within some of the butterfly wings B-P had drawn maps of their military installations! The talented artist had drawn veins in the butterfly wings in the shapes of geographical features and roads and he added spots that indicated the placement and sizes of pieces of artillery.

The long hours of hard work and practice that B-P devoted to acting and sketching as a boy really paid off during his assignment as intelligence officer. Tune in next month to learn how he used his theatrical talents to protect an entire South African town that was surrounded by a hostile and more powerful army during the siege of Mafeking.

### Bulletin Board

#### Reconnaissance Articles

Articles for the March issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, February 29. You may email your articles to her at [songle@mn.rr.com](mailto:songle@mn.rr.com).

#### The Reconnaissance

Misplaced your copy of *The Reconnaissance* or you weren't able to attend a recent meeting to get your copy? *The Reconnaissance* is now on-line. Visit [www.troop695.org](http://www.troop695.org) and go to the tab marked "monthly newsletter".

#### Marine Corp. Elite Drill Team Performing

The Marine Corp. Elite Drill Team will be performing at the Excel Energy Center at 6 pm on Monday, March 8. This is a free event.

#### Scout Achievements

Congratulations to Brian Krause who was published in the January 2004 issue of *Boy's Life* (bottom of page 52).

*Reconnaissance* is a monthly publication (no issues July and August) of Boy Scout Troop 695 chartered at

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### District News

**District Dinner** -- The Mustang District recognized several adults from Troop 695 at its Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet on January 30. Awards recipients were Paula Boudreaux, John Wolfgram, Don Qually, Joe Polta, Steve Brennaman, Barbara Hanson and Lisa & Jeff Songle. Featured Speaker for the evening was Steve Stobbs, Viking Council Director of Programs.

**Roundtable** -- Roundtable is a monthly training designed to inform you about what is happening in the community and give you ideas on how to get the most out of Scouting. These meetings are the first Thursday of each month (February 5) and start at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Roundtable is held at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina.

**Backpacking High Adventure Training Session** -- The Indian Head Council will be holding a Backpacking High Adventure Training Session on May 8 from 8 am to 3:30 pm at Fred C. Anderson Scout Camp. This training session is recommended for scouts attending Philmont this summer. For more information, call the Indian Head Council at (651) 224-1891.

**District Office  
Closed February 16  
(President's Day)**



**Wood Badge Breakfast** -- Event open to all former Wood Badge staff, participants and guests. The breakfast will take place at Saint Andrew Church in Eden Prairie on March 20, 2004. Invitations have been mailed to all former Wood Badge participants. Proceeds from the breakfast and silent auction are applied towards Wood Badge Scholarships. If you are interested in attending, contact John Tinucci at 952-934-6712. If you are interested in more information, pick up an application at the Council Service Center or Call Course Director Keith Kamrath at 320-587-7993.

**Winter Event** -- February 21.

"Being Obedient is not a sometime thing where we can choose which rules to follow or not to follow based upon what or how we feel."  
Scoutmaster Brennaman

## Merit Badge Counselor Opportunities

<p>There are over 100 merit badges offered to scouts (see accompanying list). It is desirable to have three counselors for each merit badge. A complete listing with current counselors and openings can be found on the troop website, <a href="http://www.troop695.org">www.troop695.org</a>. To become a merit badge counselor, please speak with Glenn Vanic or Barbara Hanson. Thank you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crime Prevention</li> <li>Cycling</li> <li>Dentistry</li> <li>Disability Awareness</li> <li>Dog Care</li> <li>Drafting</li> <li>Electricity</li> <li>Electronics</li> <li>Emergency Preparedness</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Entrepreneurship</li> <li>Environmental Science</li> <li>Family Life</li> <li>Farm Mechanics</li> <li>Fingerprinting</li> <li>Fire Safety</li> <li>First Aid</li> <li>Fish and Wildlife Management</li> <li>Fishing</li> <li>Forestry</li> <li>Gardening</li> <li>Genealogy</li> <li>Geology</li> <li>Golf</li> <li>Graphic Arts</li> <li>Hiking</li> <li>Home Repairs</li> <li>Horsemanship</li> <li>Indian Lore</li> <li>Insect Study</li> <li>Journalism</li> <li>Landscape Architecture</li> <li>Law</li> <li>Leatherwork</li> <li>Lifesaving</li> <li>Mammal Study</li> <li>Medicine</li> <li>Metalwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model Design and Building</li> <li>Motor boating</li> <li>Music</li> <li>Nature</li> <li>Oceanography</li> <li>Orienteering</li> <li>Painting</li> <li>Personal Fitness</li> <li>Personal Management</li> <li>Pets</li> <li>Photography</li> <li>Pioneering</li> <li>Plant Science</li> <li>Plumbing</li> <li>Pottery</li> <li>Public Health</li> <li>Public Speaking</li> <li>Pulp and Paper</li> <li>Radio</li> <li>Railroading</li> <li>Reading</li> <li>Reptile and Amphibian Study</li> <li>Rifle Shooting</li> <li>Rowing</li> <li>Safety</li> <li>Salesmanship</li> <li>Scholarship</li> <li>Sculpture</li> <li>Shotgun Shooting</li> <li>Skating</li> <li>Small Boat Sailing</li> <li>Snow Sports</li> <li>Soil and Water Conservation</li> <li>Space Exploration</li> <li>Sports</li> <li>Stamp Collecting</li> <li>Waterskiing</li> <li>Weather</li> <li>Whitewater</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Business</li> <li>American Culture</li> <li>American Heritage</li> <li>American Labor</li> <li>Animal Science</li> <li>Archaeology</li> <li>Archery</li> <li>Architecture</li> <li>Art</li> <li>Astronomy</li> <li>Athletics</li> <li>Atomic Energy</li> <li>Auto Mechanics</li> <li>Aviation</li> <li>Backpacking</li> <li>Bird Study</li> <li>Bugling</li> <li>Camping</li> <li>Canoeing</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Cinematography</li> <li>Citizenship in the Community</li> <li>Citizenship in the Nation</li> <li>Citizenship in the World</li> <li>Climbing</li> <li>Coin Collecting</li> <li>Collections</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Computers Cooking</li> </ul>		

## Scouting for Food

Scouting for Food is April 24, 2004. An increase in food shelf use makes our efforts even more important. Every unit is asked to help in this council "good turn". Once out of every 21 families in Minnesota will use a food shelf this year. Over half of those families will have children who have to miss meals because there isn't enough food for everyone. The tremendous need is reason enough for all packs, troops, crews and post to participate in this year's Scouting for Food program, but there is another great reason, the youth who participate will get a lot out of it too. Participants will learn how good it feels to help other people, learn that if they work together with others they can make a difference. These are important lessons for young people to learn. The council's goal is to collect over half a million pounds of food. Here is what your pack, troop, crew, or post needs to do:

1. Make a commitment to participate.
2. Attend your district's Roundtables to receive your unit's geographic collection territory, pick up your Scouting for Food materials and confirm the food shelf or drop-off site.
3. During the week before April 24, distribute Scouting for Food bags to the homes in your assigned territory.
4. On Saturday, April 24, return to the **same homes** and pickup or request the food donations. Don't start until after 9:30 am.
5. Deliver the food to the assigned food shelf and feel great. This council-wide "good turn" needs every unit's help.

## WOOD BADGE

If you have completed New Leader Essentials, Leader Specific Training for your position is Scouting, and are ready for the next level, you are ready for the Wood Badge advanced leadership training course. The dates of the two-weekend course are August 6-8 at the Hutchinson Middle School. The second weekend is August 27-29 at Stearns Scout Camp. In this course, Scouters learn leadership skills applicable to deeper areas of the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Venturing programs. The course draws upon the most current leadership models used by corporate America, academic circles and successful outdoor leadership organizations throughout the country to present the latest in leadership theory and team development. The Viking Council is now accepting applications ([www.vikingbsa.org/pdf/general/woodbadge\\_application.pdf](http://www.vikingbsa.org/pdf/general/woodbadge_application.pdf)) for course C-33-04. This training is a National program made possible by the resources of the council. The fee for this course is \$180 (covers food, lodging and materials) which the troop will pay for. If interested, see Scoutmaster Brenneman.