



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

March 2, 2004; Volume 9, Issue 3

Inside This Issue

Scoutmaster's Corner	2
SPL Report	2
ASPL Notepad.....	2
Troop Leadership Reports	2
Patrol News	3
Recruiting Update.....	3
Bulletin Board	3
Scout Achievements	3
Baden-Powel	4
Mustang District News	4
March-April Calendars	5-6

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.

March Activities

Responsible Patrol: Lakotas

Theme: First Aid



Eagle Court of Honor

The membership of Boy Scout Troop 695 cordially invites you and your family to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for **McLeod S. Brennaman** on Saturday, March 13 at 10 a.m. at Prairie Lutheran Church. A reception will follow the ceremony in the Great Room.

Advancement Contacts

Don't know who to contact regarding advancement? Just check the listing below for the area and responsible volunteer to contact. Contact information can be found in your Roster.

- Merit badges - Glenn Vanic
- Boards of Review - Pam Thuleen
- Eagle Boards of Review - Joe Polta
- Other - Nancy Madsen or Mark Fairbrother

Troop Court of Honor

A Troop Court of Honor is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. All scouts are expected to be in full Class A uniform. A sign-up sheet will be available during meetings requesting adults to bring beverages, appetizers and desserts.

Scouts who are finishing up merit badges need to have their blue cards completed and turned in no later than Tuesday, March 23.

Scout Achievements

Congratulations to **Adam Bissonette** and **Chris Mueller** who are on the Oak Point Sixth Grade Chess Team that won the State Championship. Earlier in the season, they also took home 3 first place finishes and 1 second place. Both will be participating in the State Elementary Championship Tournament in March. Good Luck.

Congratulations to **Jason Engelhart** who is a National Merit Finalist for Eden Prairie High School Class of 2004.

Calendar of Events

March 2	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); New Scouts join; Friends of Scouting; aluminum can recycling; Board of Review
March 4	OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
March 9	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
March 13	McLeod Brennaman Eagle Court of Honor (10 am), Prairie Lutheran; Many Point Orientation Mtg. (9-11 am, Location TBD)
March 16	SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Troop Nominations; 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	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Troop Elections
March 27	Jr. Leader Training (9 am) Prairie Lutheran
March 30	Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm)
April 1	OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
April 2-4	Leader Training #3
April 6	NO MEETINGS
April 11	Reconnaissance Articles Due
April 13	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Youth Protection Training; aluminum can recycling; Board of Review
April 20	SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Council Awards Dinner, Metropolitan Ballroom
April 23-25	Troop Campout; PLC Mtg. at Campout; Scouting for Food
April 27	NO TROOP MEETING; Committee & PLC Mtgs. (6:30 pm); SM's Mtg. (7:30 pm); Gathering of Eagles Dinner

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



Scoutmaster's Corner by Steve Brennaman

We are on the verge of having a great group of new Scouts cross over from various Webelos Dens in Eden Prairie. As we prepare for their arrival, we should take a moment to think about where we are on our various paths to Eagle. We should ask ourselves (adult leaders as well as Scouts) have we done enough to develop ourselves in the traits of leadership. One of the purposes of scouting is develop the leaders of tomorrow. The Military Academy at West Point, The Air Force Academy in Colorado, and The Naval Academy at Annapolis commissioned over 2,500 officers last year. Over 70% of these officers (of the men) were scouts at one time or another and over 50% were Eagle Scouts. You do not have to be Scout to go to these schools but it sure does help. And it also counts at every other school in the country....

As I see...Leadership is defined as **influencing** people—by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to accomplish a common goal. Easy to say, but much more difficult to do in practice. What gets in the way you say? Just about everything it seems. Such as putting somebody else first or doing something that the group wants to do rather than what you want to do. If you are a good leader then you were probably a good follower first. Even as leader you must know when to follow someone else even when you are trying to lead them. We all have good ideas.

What are the attributes of good leaders? There are many but I will touch on a few and some ideas on how to use our individual strengths.

All good leaders have good values. These values influence every decision we make and every action we take. Where do these values come from? God and Family are obvious, but for us Scouts and Scouters, the Scout Oath and Law form bedrock from which to draw our values. God, Family, and the Scout Oath and Law provide us guidance to focus our values.

Another good attribute for leaders is character. Once again we go to the Scout Oath – morality, mentally, and physically. A good leader will not go far without these three in his backpack. Remember good character is built over time but can be lost with one bad deed.

A good leader also learns the skills he needs for his current rank and the leadership positions that he wants to hold later on as he advances. More importantly, he looks for opportunities to lead, seeks out those positions where he can learn, and then uses those skills to do the job.

Finally, a Scout must use good judgment when making decisions. Remember we all make mistakes and you will make some (I have and will again), just learn a lesson from the experience. As we select new Scout leaders this month think of what leadership you want **leading your troop.**

I am proud to be an American and a Scouter.

SPL Report by Derek Clemmings

This could very well be my very last *Reconnaissance* article, so here I go. I had a lot of interesting times as SPL. Sometimes I had lots of troubles, and I thank the troop for waiting for me to accommodate. On other subjects, Merit Badge Madness went great. Everyone got lots of Merit Badges, and also had fun...I hope. Also this month we have gotten our new recruits of once Webelos but now Boy Scouts. Make sure that you welcome them gladly to this troop.

ASDL Notepad

Tyler Opitz -- I hope everyone's ready for the next elections of the year. I know there will be many new leaders and some old running again. Good luck to all of you. I also hope all the Falcons and Bald Eagles will consider a leadership position. Just remember, every position is important to the troop and there are many available. On another note, the new Scouts will be coming to join soon and I want everybody to welcome them to our troop. You all know this will be a big addition to our troop of about thirty new kids, and this will just make are troop interesting. They'll be with us for a long time, so let's make it a fun time for them.

Thomas Segersin -- The month of February went well. The main highlight of the month was the last weekend of it, being Merit Badge Madness. The campout went well, and many of the Scouts who attended got one or more merit badges finished, or very close to finished. The campout itself was extremely nice, with the weather being near perfect.

In all February went well, and Merit Badge Madness was a huge success, just like years past.

Troop Leadership Reports

Den Chief Report by Jake Poirier -- I have finished my year as Den Chief with the Thundering Wolverines of Pack 342. Six of the boys are coming to Troop 695. I look forward to being their Troop Guide.

Den Chief Report by Matt Boudreaux -- Hey, this is Matt Boudreaux. I am the Den Chief for Pack 347, Den 5. This is a Junior Webelos Den. We have been working on the fitness pin, sportsman pin, athlete pin, communication, and engineering pin. For the engineering pin, we drew bridges and also made bridges out of marshmallows and toothpicks. We also discussed circuits and light bulbs with the kids. We also did some first aid teaching. I am really enjoying working with the kids. On February 26th we had their Packs Blue and Gold Banquet. We had Mikeal Rudolph the Mime Artist perform and he was awesome!

Patrol News

<p>BALD EAGLES: Kyle Kronlokken, Patrol Leader During the month of February our patrol went to Merit Badge Madness at the St. Croix YMCA camp. We all had a lot of fun skiing and snowboarding at Afton Alps. We had the special privilege of having a new scout, Nate Brown, in our patrol for the weekend. We all loved having him with us. We all earned at least one merit badge each.</p> <p>HUSKIES: Ross Sherman, Patrol Leader</p> <p>LAKOTAS: McLeod Brennaman, Patrol Leader</p>	<p>FALCONS: Brian Smith, Troop Guide</p> <p>FALCONS: Dan Polta, Patrol Leader</p> <p>WOLVERUNNERS: John Lewis, Patrol Leader</p> <p>RAPTORS: Eric Gatto, Patrol Leader</p>
---	--

Recruiting Update by Kevin Opitz

<p>I want to congratulate and thank everyone who was involved with getting out the word and assisting with one of our many Webelos events. This year we held 3 Webelos events, we were invited to attend Boy Scout night at two Packs, and to all who welcomed all the Webelos who visited our Troop meetings. There were over 24 people in Troup 695 who were involved with the Webelos transition.</p> <p>We were very successful in attracting 26 Webelos to Troup 695. Many thanks to all the Boy Scouts who volunteered to help with these events. I believe it is you Scouts who attracted all these boys to join you in the Boy Scout journey. It is your enthusiasm, helpfulness, and politeness that influenced the new boys and their families. The great achievement could not have been accomplished with out all the wonderful parents who would volunteer to help with this important part of our Troup - without these new boys we would quickly deteriorate.</p>	<p>There are also special people behind the scenes who were very influential. Lisa Songle was always there when I would call at the last minute to let her know that I would need extra Reconnaissance articles to hand out at these events and also the Troup flier which provides the Webelos and their families a good overview of what Troup 695 is all about. Finally I want to thank our media department (you didn't know we had one of those did you). Rob Smith and Derrick Poirier have put together and updated a great power point presentation that the new families can view to see what makes 695 so popular. Chuck Wunderlich has also provided many candid pictures of these events that will be put to use in the future versions of the presentation.</p> <p>Thanks again for everyone's help. Please welcome our newest Scouts and answer any questions the new families will have in the next few months. Remember our job is only starting!</p>
--	---

Bulletin Board

<p>Reconnaissance Articles Articles for the March issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, April 11. You may email your articles to her at songle@mn.rr.com.</p> <p>The Reconnaissance Misplaced your copy of <i>The Reconnaissance</i> or you weren't able to attend a recent meeting to get your copy? <i>The Reconnaissance</i> is now on-line. Visit www.troop695.org and go to the tab marked "monthly newsletter".</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><i>Reconnaissance</i> is a monthly publication (no issues July and August) of Boy Scout Troop 695 chartered at Prairie Lutheran Church 11000 Blossom Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347</p> <p>Scoutmaster: Steve Brennaman (952) 942-0407</p> <p>Committee Chair: Mark Jennen (952) 943-1340</p> <p><i>Reconnaissance</i> Editor: Lisa Songle (952) 944-8803 Email: songle@mn.rr.com</p> <p>Troop Web Page: www.troop695.org</p>
--	--	---

Scout Achievements

<p>Congratulations to Adam Bissonette and Chris Mueller who are on the Oak Point Sixth Grade Chess Team that won the State Championship. Earlier in the season, they also took home 3 first place finishes and 1 second place. Both will be participating in the State Elementary Championship Tournament in March. Good Luck.</p> <p>Congratulations to Jason Engelhart who is a National Merit Finalist for Eden Prairie High School Class of 2004.</p>
--

Space Exploration Merit Badge Opportunity

<p>Michaels (craft store) is promoting, in conjunction with Estes Industries, "Space Exploration Rocket Days". This event, held at Michaels stores throughout the country from April 17-May 1, 2004, will provide Scouts the opportunity to complete most of Requirement 3 of the Space Exploration merit badge (excluding rocket launches). Estes Industries will provide a model rocket to be built to each Scout registering for the event. Michaels will provide an opportunity for Scouts to build their rockets at the store. For more information or to locate the nearest Michaels store, call 1-800-642-4235 or www.Michaels.com. Registration deadline is March 5 on a first-come, first-served basis.</p>
--

Baden-Powell: The Great Actor (Part 2) by Derrick Doirier

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, or B-P for short, was the founder of the Boy Scout program. In last month's article, his use of his acting and artistic abilities as an intelligence officer for the British Army in the 1890s were described.

In 1899, Britain was embroiled in a dispute over the control of territories in South Africa with the Boers (settlers of Dutch descent). Britain began assembling troops and weaponry along the border of the Boer-controlled Transvaal in the event that the dispute escalated into a war. B-P was assigned to lead a force in defense of the British position north of a town called Mafeking.

Before all the supplies and troops were in position, the war began. The Boers struck first by surrounding Mafeking and several other British positions, thus cutting off supply lines and gaining an early advantage in the conflict. B-P found himself besieged by a superior number of enemy troops with greater firepower. He was not only in charge of the soldiers, but now had the responsibility of protecting the civilian population of the town which included settlers and natives. His strategy was to use the resources at his command to trick the Boers into thinking the town was well prepared to defend itself.

Among the supplies on hand was TNT that had been en route to gold mining operations the Transvaal. B-P had signs posted in Mafeking announcing that "defence mines" and trip wires would be placed around the perimeter of the town to repel enemy attacks and warned of the areas to stay clear of. It was also announced that one of the mines would be tested at a certain time on a certain day. For several days, native recruits could be seen carefully carrying wooden boxes from the "mine making laboratory" and gingerly lowering them into holes that had been dug around the perimeter of town. They had been warned that dropping one of the mines would result in a disastrous explosion. On the day announced, there was a powerful explosion seen and heard on the edge of town as the test mine was set off. Townspeople and Boers alike spent the rest of the siege under the impression that a protective ring of powerful land mines surrounded Mafeking.

The whole mine laying operation was really just one of B-P's acting performances. The signs were posted with the expectation that spies or traitors would pass the word along to the Boers. The TNT was not in a form at all suitable for making "defence mines". Only B-P and his mine-making officer knew that the boxes that were buried were really filled with sand! Not even the natives burying them knew this, ensuring that their activities (under the observation of Boer scouts, no doubt) would appear as authentic as possible. On the day of the announced test, B-P and the officer who made the "mines" went out to the announced location, stuck a stick of dynamite in the ground, lit the fuse and ran for cover until it exploded.

The siege of Mafeking ended up lasting 217 days and, as you can imagine, required many more clever plans by B-P to keep the Boers at bay. The siege was carefully followed in the newspapers back in London. When British forces finally managed to get the upper hand in the Boer war and relieve B-P, he was a popular war hero. It was partly because of his status as "The Hero of Mafeking" that when he published his book "Scouting for Boys," in 1908, that the Boy Scouting movement was an instant success in England.



District News

Roundtable -- Roundtable is a monthly training designed to inform you about what is happening in the community and gives 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.

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.

"As I see...Leadership is defined as influencing people—by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to accomplish a common goal." Scoutmaster Brennaman