



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

February 7, 2006; Volume 11, Issue 2

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February Activities

Theme: Advancement

Responsible Patrol: Wolverunners

February 7 – Troop and Parents' Meetings (6:30 pm)

February 14 – Troop Meeting (6:30 pm)

February 21 – Troop Meeting (6:30 pm)

February 28 – No Troop Meeting; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm), ASM Mtg. (7 pm)

Troop Camp-Outs

February 24-26 – MERIT BADGE MADNESS, Camp St. Croix



**Many Point Scout Camp.
That's The Place To Be!**
by Paul Boudreaux, Many Point Coordinator

“Scouts, it's all up to you. Not just your success, but the entire Troop's success.”
Scoutmaster Polta

Believe it or not, summer is just around the corner. The dates for Many Point 2006 are **July 16-22**. This gives me a few months to obtain the many needed consents, collect the payment, compile information, collect medicals, get the adults and Scouts through the swim qualifications, and generally just try to keep everyone up to speed on the progress. I will attend the Many Point orientation meeting March 25, and will then update everyone again in the April Reconnaissance with any new attractions or changes to camp.

I have not looked into transportation costs or if Many Point has raised their fees, but I'm sure the cost of camp should stay around \$220.00 (2005 cost). One thing I plan to change this year is the swim qualification dates. I plan to schedule these during the month of **March**. I would like to have them completed before baseball and soccer season gets started. Any Scout or adult planning to participate in a high adventure trip should plan on attending swim qualifications, whether they are attending Many Point or not. BSA requires swim qualifications for many of the high adventure programs, even Troop-run high adventure trips.

I spoke with the aquatics director last year at camp regarding our Troop offering the Waterskiing Merit Badge for the older Scouts who have completed the requirements offered in Session IV (swimming and snorkeling). In order to plan for this Merit Badge, interested Scouts should sign up at the registration table in March.

All Scouts should plan on attending Many Point. There are incredible opportunities for working on advancement and Merit Badges; skills are learned; high adventure activities for the older Scouts; and friendships are made. It is a great memorable experience to be remembered for years!

Parents, we'll be needing your assistance again this year. Each patrol is required to have at least two parents at Many Point for every day of our camping week. More than two is best for the younger patrols. If you have a day or two, or the whole week, please sign up--we'd love to have you join us! Check those calendars. As I mentioned earlier, **sign-up will start the first Tuesday in March**. There will also be a spot for the adults to sign-up to join us!

Bulletin Board

<p>Reconnaissance Articles Articles for the March issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, February 26! Email your articles to her at songle19@msn.com.</p> <p>Reconnaissance on the Web <i>The Reconnaissance</i> is on-line. Visit www.troop695.org and go to the tab marked "Monthly Newsletter".</p>	<p>Advancement Contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator --Karen Vanic ▪ Boards of Review or Advancement – Nancy Madsen ▪ Eagle Boards of Review – Bill Brown <p>Contact information can be found in your Roster.</p> <p>The Merit Badge Sign Up book can be found by the "Ships" at each meeting.</p>	<p><i>The Reconnaissance</i> is a monthly publication (no issues July and August) of Boy Scout Troop 695 chartered at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prairie Lutheran Church 11000 Blossom Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347</p> <p>Scoutmaster: Joe Polta (952) 974-0264 Committee Chair: Mark Jennen (952) 943-1340 <i>Reconnaissance</i> Editor: Lisa Songle (952) 944-8803 Email: songle19@msn.com Troop Web Page: www.troop695.org</p>
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Noteworthy News

<p>Turkey Hunt – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is partnering with the National Wild Turkey Federation to hold three special youth turkey hunts this spring. The Minnesota Valley Hunt will be April 8-9 in Carver, Scott, Sibley and Le Sueur counties. Chester Woods County Park in Olmsted County will host two hunts, April 8-9 and April 15-16. For more information, visit: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/releases/index.html?id=1137533225</p>	<p>Now Staring -- Todd Hayen of the Wolverunners is appearing in two upcoming shows at the Children's Theatre: Reeling which is playing through March 4 and Pippi Longstocking which runs April 25 through June 18.</p>
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District and Council News



www.northernstarbsa.org

February 20 -- District offices closed in observance of Presidents' Day.
 March 11 – Order of the Arrow Winter Event
 March 18 – Part I, Outdoor Leader Skills, Phillippo Scout Reservation
 March 19 – Wild Scout Day, MN Wild v. Calgary Flames, 6 pm
 March 25 – Council Court of Recognition
 April 1 – University of Scouting, St. Thomas Academy, 7:30 am – 5 pm
 April 1 – Part I, Outdoor Leader Skills, Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp

For information on any of these events, please visit the District website.

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

Calendar of Events

<p>Feb. 7 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling Feb. 14 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Eagle BOR at United Methodist (7 pm) Feb. 21 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm) Feb. 24-26 Merit Badge Madness, Camp St. Croix Feb. 26 Reconnaissance Articles due Feb. 28 No Troop Mtg.; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm) Mar. 2 OA Mtg. and District Roundtable (7 pm) Mar. 7 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling, Troop nominations, Welcome New Scouts Mar. 14 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm), Troop elections, Merit Badges Due, New Leader Essentials Mar. 17-19 Troop Campout, Kiwanis Scout Camp Mar. 18 Leader Training Mar. 21 No Troop Mtg.; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm), Rank Advancements due Mar. 26 Reconnaissance articles due Mar. 28 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm), Recharter due Mar. 31 Leader Outdoor Training</p>	<p>Outdoor Code: 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.</p>
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Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta

I'd like to thank the PLC for a very lively and informative meeting recently. I think our great leadership community reflects the greatness of this Troop. If you want to know what made it so lively and informative, I encourage you to ask a member of the PLC. Here are my conclusions.

Scouts, it's all up to you. Not just your success, but the entire Troop's success.

You decide what we're doing, and where we're going every month. You decide what will happen during meetings. You run them. You decide what will happen at the campout. You run it. And you decide whether or not you'll work together with the rest of the Scouts to make those meetings and campouts fun and productive. Maybe you'll decide to stand by passively and let things happen, or maybe you'll even decide to work against people and cause disorder and failure.

And naturally you decide how you act when you're not in uniform or not at a Scout event. (Is it different from how you act when you're in uniform or at a Scout event?)

It's all up to you. It starts with the Scout Sign, and what that sign stands for.

I'm truly proud to be your Scoutmaster.

ASPL Notepad by John Lewis

I went on the Winter Adventure camp out with the younger Scouts in January and they enjoyed it a lot. They learned a lot about the winter scouting experience. They had a lot of fun playing games and going into a parachute and setting it up as well as taking it down. I'm looking forward to Merit Badge Madness coming up in February. It will be a lot of fun and an opportunity to work on a lot of Merit Badges.

ASPL Notepad by Matt "Danger" Boudreaux

Aloha from your ASPL. In January our Troop went to North Winds at Stearns Scout camp. I was not able to go to the camp out, but I was outside. Mark Donahoe sent me pictures that he took during the camp out. It looks like they had a lot of fun even though it looked like they didn't have a lot of snow. As you all know we have MERIT BADGE MADDDDDNESSSS coming in February. If you're new to the Troop you won't know this, but you have to attend all the meeting in February because you start your Merit Badges before you go to camp. Bring to the meeting something to write with and some paper to doodle on.

Merit Badge Madness by Derrick Poirier

When: February 24-26 at Camp St. Croix (heated cabins, indoor meeting space, no cooking or dish washing).

Badges Being Offered (* denotes eagle-required):

- 1) Snow Sports
- 2) Art
- 3) Energy
- 4) Citizenship in the World*
- 5) Citizenship in the Community*
- 6) Citizenship in the Nation*
- 7) Communications*
- 8) First Aid*
- 9) Personal Management*

Upcoming Camping Offerings

March 17-19 – Kiwanis Scout Camp, Stillwater, Climbing Theme, Patrol: Dragons

April 21-23 – Plumbing & Gardening Theme, Patrol: Cobras

May 19-21 – Valley Fair, Archery Theme; Patrol: Falcons

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES: Adam Bissonette -- During the last month and a half, the Bald Eagles have been involved a series of patrol/troop activities. In December we made our own Bald Eagles flag and have challenged other patrols to compete and try to top our own. It took a lot of hard work from everyone, and each and every one of us had to bring different tools and materials to help out. A few weeks later a couple of us went to the January survival campout. Everyone had a lot of fun, but it was still challenging though. Some of us slept in a parachute, while others had tents and quinzies, (a hollowed-out snow pile). Nonetheless, hiking in the snow with those giant sleds we had to carry was pretty tough! Through it all, we've had a great time!

PURPLE COBRAS: Andrew Teaver; Troop Guide:

Terrance Tan -- I would like to sum up what the Cobras, but note that I was not there, so I am telling from what they probably did. Unlike those who slept the night outside, the Cobras and other first years slept inside the cabin. I heard that many over packed and did not need the use the clothing anyway since the camp provides most of the outdoor equipment. They most likely learned about winter survival and probably built one of the forms of winter shelters. One tip for those going on future winter camps, try not to put warming devices in your gloves or shoes/boots. Like many of you remember from the Troop meetings, after the heat is gone, your heated area will feel colder. This is because your body has slowed its generation of heat and the extremities get cold real fast.

DRAGONS: David Jennen

FALCONS: Andrew Shawd

HUSKIES: Shane Thuleen

RAPTORS: Brad Madsen

THUNDER: Ryan Brattensborg -- The Thunder patrol had all 100% of the patrol go to the North Winds camp out. At the camp out we learned how to build snow huts (quinzies). When we were building the quinzies we had to use a lot of teamwork. We also learned how to make lots of things without getting your dishes dirty. Some of those things were beef stew in a bag boiled, and oatmeal -- you leave it in the packets and just add boiling water. All of us thought it was lots of fun and we should do it next year.

TIMBERWOLVES: Sam Rosol; Troop Guide: Ian Vanic

SCORPIONS: Austin Artz

WOLVERUNNERS: Jake Poirier -- My patrol didn't have too many activities during January. However, in February we are in charge of Merit Badge Madness. Scouts have signed up for the Merit Badges they want and have begun starting classes.

Troop Leadership Reports

Assist. Senior Patrol Leaders: Matt Boudreaux and John Lewis II

Assistant Scoutmasters: Ben Cooper and Brad Madsen

Bugler: Open

Camping Instructor: Eric Wiig -- Extra lines can be run from most tents in winds for support and stability (November campout). Make sure your tent's ground cloth doesn't show from beneath the tent. If you can see the ground cloth, it will collect water during a rain storm and the water will go between the ground cloth and the tent. Then it might come through tiny holes in the floor of your tent and get your things wet.

Chaplain's Aid: Chris Mueller

Cooking Instructor: Reed Qually -- Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting it in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

Den Chiefs: Luke Coyer, Ryan Halpin, Josh Issacs, Daniel Johnson, Brandon Schwab and Zach Poirier -- My den tied knots at their last meeting. The Scouts had a lot of fun and did great knots. They even tied Boy Scout knots. I think they had a great time tying knots. **Brandon Schwab**

First Aid Instructor: Evan Fairbrother -- If you need help on advancing from Tenderfoot to First Class, I can help you with your First Aid Requirements. Just tell me at one of the upcoming troop meetings.

Historian: Kevin Thomsen

Junior Scoutmaster

Knife & Ax Safety Instructor: Julian Kollmeyer

Fire Safety: Patrick Conklin

Knots Instructor: Dan Polta -- I noticed that Scouts don't seem to know their knots as well as I had hoped. For instance, when people need a taut line, they don't know the taut line hitch so they just use the square knot or make a knot up. I would like to try to improve on this by selecting people before or after Troop meetings to see if they know certain knots that they should for their ranks. If these Scouts do not know the knot or knots I have selected, then I will teach them. Please ask me if you need a knot to serve a specific purpose or if you just want to know a specific knot for the sake of learning it.

Librarian: Alex Fleagle

Quartermaster: Nate Brown

Troop OA Representative: Jake Brown

Scribe: Paul Rairamo

Venture President: Open