



# THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

March 7, 2006; Volume 11, Issue 3

## Inside This Issue

Many Point News.....	2
Bulletin Board.....	2
Council/District News.....	3
Merit Badge Madness.....	3
Adult Training Opportunities.....	3
Scoutmaster's Corner.....	4
ASPL Notepad.....	4
Patrol News.....	4
Troop Leadership Reports.....	5
The Left Handshake.....	5
Flying Cloud News.....	6
Eagle Preview.....	6

## March Activities

### Theme: Climbing

### Responsible Patrol: Dragons

March 7 – Troop and Parents' Meetings (6:30 pm), Troop Nominations

March 14 – Troop Meeting (6:30 pm), Troop Elections, **Merit Badges Due**

March 21 – No Troop Meeting; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm), ASM Mtg. (7 pm), **Rank Advancements Due**

March 28 – Troop Court of Honor (**full Class A uniform required**)

### Troop Camp-Out

March 17-19 – Kiwanis, Stillwater

Vertical Endeavors on Saturday from 8 to 1 p.m. Can earn climbing merit badge.

## Apologies!!

**The Reconnaissance Editor apologizes profusely to Paula Boudreaux a/k/a Paul Boudreaux. Paula has tirelessly been our Many Point Coordinator for the past several years and we appreciate her dedication immensely.**

## Calendar of Events

- Mar. 7 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling, Troop nominations, **Welcome New Scouts**
- Mar. 11 Hopkins Care Center (2-4 pm)
- Mar. 12 Hopkins Care Center Bingo (2 pm)
- Mar. 14 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm), Troop Elections, **Merit Badges Due**, New Leader Essentials
- Mar. 17-19 Troop Campout, Kiwanis Scout Camp, Stillwater
- Mar. 18 Leader Training
- Mar. 21 **No Troop Mtg.;** PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm), ASM Mtg. (7 pm), **Rank Advancements due**
- Mar. 25 Hopkins Care Center (2-4 pm)
- Mar. 26 Hopkins Care Center Bingo (2 pm)
- Mar. 28 Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm), Recharter due
- Mar. 31 Leader Outdoor Training
- Apr. 1 University of Scouting, Hopkins Care Center (2-4 pm)
- Apr. 2 Reconnaissance articles due, Hopkins Care Center Bingo (2 pm), Leader Outdoor Training
- Apr. 4 **No Troop Mtg.**
- Apr. 6 OA Mtg. (7 pm), District Roundtable (7 pm)
- Apr. 8 Hopkins Care Center (2-4 pm)
- Apr. 9 Hopkins Care Center Bingo (2 pm)
- Apr. 11 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), Eagle Preview, Christ Church Edina (7 pm)
- Apr. 15 Hopkins Care Center (2-4 pm)
- Apr. 18 **No Troop Mtg.;** PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm), ASM Mtg. (7 pm)
- Apr. 21-23 Troop Campout, Stearns, Leader Outdoor Training, OA Conclave
- Apr. 25 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- Apr. 29 Scouting for Food, Flying Cloud Clean-Up, Church Clean-Up, Tree Lot Clean-Up

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.

**Many Point Scout Camp  
That's The Place To Be!**



**By  
Paula Boudreaux  
Many Point Coordinator**

Just a quick note with the dates for Many Point Scout Camp. We will leave **Sunday, July 16** and arrive back at Eden Prairie on **Saturday, July 22**.

As I mentioned in the February *Reconnaissance*, I am trying to arrange the Swim Qualifications for the month of March before all the spring sport seasons begin. **All Scouts must attend and pass swim qualifications!** Please speak with me if you there are circumstances which prohibit you from participating in swim qualifications. Every **adult** participating in water activities with Scouts this summer should also attend swim qualifications. I will send out emails when I have arranged the dates with the Eden Prairie Community Center. In the past we have used the Oak Point Pool, and this is my hope for this year as well.

Also, be looking for the Many Point sign-up sheets in March! Please check with Diane Grunewald if you are unsure of the status of your medical form. A Class II medical form is good for 3 years. Any adult over 40 years needs an annual Class III medical form completed. Both these forms need to be signed by a physician. You may get a copy of these forms off the troop website at [www.troop695.org](http://www.troop695.org).



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

**Bulletin Board**

<p><b>Reconnaissance Articles</b> Articles for the April issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, April 2! Email your articles to her at <a href="mailto:songle19@msn.com">songle19@msn.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Reconnaissance on the Web</b> <i>The Reconnaissance</i> is on-line. Visit <a href="http://www.troop695.org">www.troop695.org</a> and go to the tab marked “Monthly Newsletter”.</p>	<p><b>Advancement Contacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator --Karen Vanic</li> <li>▪ Boards of Review or Advancement – Nancy Madsen</li> <li>▪ Eagle Boards of Review – Bill Brown</li> </ul> <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: <a href="mailto:songle19@msn.com">songle19@msn.com</a> Troop Web Page: <a href="http://www.troop695.org">www.troop695.org</a></p>
--	--	---

**Upcoming Camp-Outs, Themes and Responsible Patrols**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

<p><b>April 21-23</b> – Orienteering Theme, Patrol: Cobras  <b>May 19-21</b> – Valley Fair, Archery Theme; Patrol: Falcons  <b>June 2-4</b> – Biking Theme, Patrol: Dragons  <b>July 16-22</b> – Many Point  <b>September 15-17</b> – Shooting Theme, Patrol: Huskies  <b>October 13-15</b> – Music Theme, Patrol: Wolverunners  <b>November 10-12</b> – First Aid Theme, Patrol: Bald Eagles</p>	<p>The Troop is in need to adult volunteers for the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Working with Scouts to schedule Boards of Review</li> <li> Reconnaissance Editor</li> </ul>
---	--

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

**District and Council News**



[www.northernstarbsa.org](http://www.northernstarbsa.org)

- March 11 – Order of the Arrow Winter Event
- March 19 – Wild Scout Day, MN Wild v. Calgary Flames, 6 pm
- March 25 – Council Court of Recognition, International Market Square, 5:45 pm
- April 21-22 – OA Spring Conclave
- May 20 – Star Fun 2006, Northern Star Council Super Event at Valley Fair

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

**Merit Badge Madness Wrap-Up**

**By Derrick Poirier**

**Scouts** - The Merit Badge Madness classes have come and gone, but many of you still have requirements to complete. Your adult instructors have worked very hard to provide you with a great learning opportunity and to get you off to a good start earning your badges. It is now up to you to make sure those requirements get completed! Keep in touch with your counselors regarding any field trips or activities coming up, work diligently on your long term requirements, and give your counselors and yourselves a big "thank-you" by completing your badges!

For any badges that you have completed, please return your Merit Badge books to the Troop library.

**Parents** - Ask your Scouts about the things they learned. Merit Badges are meant to introduce scouts to new hobbies, possible careers, and the tools they need to become responsible citizens. Please encourage your Scouts with long term requirements, like the Personal Fitness exercise program and the Personal Management budget, to stick to their goals. These require just a little effort each day!

**Merit Badge Madness Numbers**

Over the February 24-26 weekend, sixty Scouts attended Merit Badge Madness at Camp St.Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin. The scouts worked on fourteen different merit badges taught by twenty-four adult volunteers. Thirty adults from the Troop spent part or all of the weekend at the camp (teaching, chaperoning, updating troop records, working on the troop budget, etc.). The Troop slept in ten cabins, with one for each patrol and one for the moms. Three hundred twenty-eight meals from the camp dining hall were consumed. Thirty-four scouts and twelve adult chaperones went skiing at Afton Alps on Saturday night. Back at camp, eighteen scouts and six adults participated in a trail clearing service project. In preparation for this event, two hundred blue cards were prepared, one hundred eighty-one new merit badge books were purchased, and countless hours of preparation were put in by the adult merit badge counselors. Thanks to the enthusiasm, and cooperative attitudes of the scouts, and the generous efforts of the adults, the weekend was one big success!

**Adult Training Opportunities by Michael Wiig**

Greetings, These are some of the upcoming training opportunities for those who are think they want to become trained leaders to support the troop. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment.

**March 14 --** New Leader Essentials, Christ Presbyterian Church, 7-9 pm.

For Boy Scout and Cub Scout Leaders- the basics about the BSA and how you fit into the big picture. This is the first of three steps to becoming "TRAINED." Registrations due March 13. Walk-ins available.

**March 18 --** Boy Scout Leader Specific Training, Christ Presbyterian Church, 8 am – 4 pm

For Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters to learn the basics of BSA troop meetings, advancement, methods, missions, and outdoor experiences. Must have completed New Leader Essentials. This includes Youth Protection Training. Registrations due March 13.

**April 1 --** University of Scouting, St. Thomas Academy, 7:30 am -- 5:00 pm

Schedule: 7:30 registration, 8:30 start, 5:00 conclusion. Contact Steve Stobbs at [sstobbs@northernstarbsa.org](mailto:sstobbs@northernstarbsa.org).

**April 21--** Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training, Stearns Scout Camp

**- April 23** The outdoor, hands-on portion of the Boy Scout Leader Specific Training. Cost : \$30. Registrations are due no later than April 8. Cost includes meals for the weekend.



**Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta**

Scouts, Scouters and parents, it's important to be a friend. It's easy to see this month, when we have two important changes going on.

The first is that a new patrol of Scouts is joining us. Be a friend to those Scouts and their families. Let them know they made the right choice by joining Troop 695. If you see someone looking uncertain or out-of-place, ask them if you can help them. Then listen to what they say.

The second is that the Scouts choose new leadership this month. Scouts, one of the best ways to distinguish yourself as deserving of a leadership position is to be a friend to other Scouts. It shouldn't be hard for you -- it's what Scouts do.

Welcome to our new families!

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

**ASPL Notepad by John Lewis**

February was a good month for scouting. We got a lot done, with many opportunities to get a lot of rank advancements done. We finished the month up with Merit Badge Madness. There was some time for actives like skiing and snowboarding during Merit Badge Madness at Afton. This month coming up we will have climbing, so there is a good chance to be able to get the Climbing Merit Badge.

**ASPL Notepad by Matthew "Curt" Boudreaux**

At the end of February we went to St. Croix for our annual Merit Badge Madnesssssssss. Luckily there were no broken bones at Afton Alps. The ski conditions were excellent!!!!!! Many Scouts got their Merit Badges completed or close to done. That is just about all that I can think of. I think that we should give Derrick Poirier a pat on the back for another GREAT year at MBM.

**Patrol News**

**BALD EAGLES: Adam Bissonette**  
**PURPLE COBRAS: Andrew Teaver; Troop Guide: Terrance Tan**  
**DRAGONS: David Jennen**  
**FALCONS: Andrew Shawd**  
**HUSKIES: Shane Thuleen**  
**RAPTORS: Brad Madsen**  
**THUNDER: Ryan Brattensborg** -- The Thunder Patrol will have five out of the six Scouts to First Class by the end of February and hope to have the sixth scout there soon. At the last camp out, Merit Badge Madness, the five people from Thunder Patrol who went, successfully completed one merit badge (First Aid) and are close to finishing the other two that we started. We had a lot of fun at Merit Badge Madness and I think we are all planning to go again next year if we can.

Now to get to Star we are going to have to work on service hours and leadership. We have three scouts currently working in leadership positions, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader and Den Chief. But after the next Court of Honor, my goal is to have everybody in the Thunder Patrol hold a leadership position.

**TIMBERWOLVES: Sam Rosol; Troop Guide: Ian Vanic**  
**SCORPIONS: Austin Artz** -- The Scorpion Patrol is working to get more community service projects in, and this month some of us went to Mary's Place which is a homeless shelter. We did things like coloring and playing games with the younger children that live there. We all were planning to go to Merit Badge Madness but unfortunately one of us could not make it. We had a really fun time at Afton Alps though, and we got a lot of Merit Badge work done.  
**WOLVERUNNERS: Jake Poirier** -- This month my patrol was in charge of Merit Badge Madness. My dad worked hard to get all of the meetings and classes arranged. I think it went very smoothly and was just as successful as previous years.

### Troop Leadership Reports

<p><b>Assistant Scoutmasters: Ben Cooper and Brad Madsen</b>  <b>Bugler: Open</b>  <b>Camping Instructor: Eric Wiig</b> -- If and when you buy your own tent, remember that the strongest tent poles are made from aluminum. For example, Easton poles. They actually weigh less than fiberglass poles. A three-season tent has more mesh and fewer poles for less weight while backpacking. Four-season tents have less mesh, vestibules, full coverage rainflys, and usually weigh more.  <b>Chaplain's Aid: Chris Mueller</b>  <b>Cooking Instructor: Reed Qually</b> -- If someone asked you to describe Botulism, Trichinosis or Salmonella Enteritis, would you be able to do it? These are some of the food-related illnesses that you will learn about if you decide to work on the Cooking Merit Badge. More importantly, you will learn how to prevent these illnesses from happening. I hope you will consider working on the Cooking Merit Badge. It will help you improve your cooking skills at campouts and at home.  <b>Den Chiefs: Luke Coyer, Ryan Halpin, Josh Issacs, Daniel Johnson, Brandon Schwab and Zach Poirier</b> -- This month was my Den's Blue and Gold Banquet. All the members of my den earned their Webelos badge and multiple other awards.  <b>Zach Poirier</b>  <b>First Aid Instructor: Evan Fairbrother</b>  <b>Librarian: Alex Fleagle</b>  <b>Quartermaster: Nate Brown</b>  <b>Troop OA Representative: Jake Brown</b>  <b>Scribe: Paul Rairamo</b></p>	<p><b>Historian: Kevin Thomsen</b>  <b>Junior Scoutmaster</b>  <b>Knife &amp; Ax Safety Instructor: Julian Kollmeyer</b>  <b>Fire Safety: Patrick Conklin</b> -- Merit Badge Madness is over for 2006 and there were a couple of things to learn from our experience in the main lodge for fire builders. First, if you use green or unseasoned wood in a fireplace fire it tends to smoke unless there is a really good bed of coals underneath the new wood. It needs good ventilation to burn hot. Before starting a fireplace fire, check to see if the damper is open or shut. If it is open, the smoke will go up the chimney after you start the fire. If it is not, smoke will go into the room of the fireplace. There was one fire started this weekend when the chimney was not open and smoke filled the room. Let's make sure to help our new Scouts next month at the campout.  <b>Knots Instructor: Dan Polta</b> -- Hello from your Knots Instructor again. I am still willing to help out with first year patrols, troop guides. It's been a great term and good luck to whoever succeeds me. I'm not going to be Knots Instructor for much longer so now would be a good time to visit me and ask for help tying your knots. So far no one has talked to me so I will assume that you all know your necessary knots. If that is the case, then good job. If not, I just wish that you had decided to come to me.  <b>Venture President: Open</b></p>
--	--

### The Left Handshake

*When Colonel Baden-Powell entered the capital city of the Ashanti people in 1890 he was met by one of the Chiefs who came to him holding out his left hand. B.-P. held out his right in return but the Chief said: "No, in my country the bravest of the brave shake with the left hand." So began the "left handshake" of the world-wide brotherhood of Scouts*

— From *The Left Handshake*, by Hilary St. George Saunders

*The left handshake, common to Scouts and Guides everywhere, and peculiar to them, has a romantic reason underlying it. The Founder, in explaining it, used to tell the story of two tribes in Africa that were constantly at war with one another, until suddenly one day the leader of one of them had a change of heart. He came to the border of his own territory and, when the chief of the opposing tribe appeared, flung down his shield and held out his left hand in friendship, saying that here was the proof that he had come unarmed and in a new spirit. The other chief responded at once and thus giving of the left hand came to be regarded as a sign of love and trust for those who live by a common Law and Promise. Hence the expression, "a disarming smile."*

— From *Olave Baden-Powell* by. Eileen Wade

*In West Africa the left handshake is a mark of distinction reserved for use between a chief and his most trusted followers. B.-P. introduced it into the Scout movement. It has since been explained that Scouts shake hands with their left hand because it is the hand nearest the heart.*

— From *Stetsons and Bare Knees Pathfinder Scout Annual*, 1960, Sydney R. Brown

You can now dispense with the rumor stories regarding the left handshake. It is not because Mr. Polta doesn't know his right hand from his left, or that he is hiding his hideously burned-in-a-tragic-cooking-incident right hand, or that he is (now this one is believable) just trying to see if you are on your toes! He is extending not only his left hand, but also his friendship, leadership and commendations, as well as passing along a tradition that has been time honored by Scouts all over the world. So, next time you shake hands with another Scout, (in uniform), extend your left hand, look your brother in the eye, and give him your best "disarming smile!"

## Viking Council and Indianhead Council Merge to Form Northern Star Council



*On July 1, 2005 the Indianhead Council (St. Paul based) and Viking Council (Minneapolis based) consolidated to become a single council. Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America is among the five largest in the United States, serving more than 110,000 youths and families in all or part of 21 counties in Minnesota and four counties in Western Wisconsin.*

*Our name and logo were selected through a participatory process. "Northern Star" is descriptive of our area of the country and relates to our mission of providing direction/guidance to young people. The logo is designed to be interpreted on many levels, showing a star moving upward and onward, the circle reflecting the points of a compass and the direction it offers, with the BSA fleur-de-lis in the center of it all.*

From the Northern Star Council website: [www.northernstarbsa.org](http://www.northernstarbsa.org)

"L'Etoile du Nord," French for "Star of the North" is our state motto. It is proudly displayed on a field of yellow in the center of The Great Seal on the Minnesota State Flag.

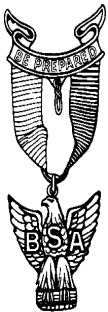


### Flying Cloud News by Dale Blomgren

Sign-ups for Flying Cloud Spring will soon be open. I am getting the tools ready to use. Part of the process is getting the mail list up to date and forms on line.

You should be able to see the schedule from our Troop 695 web page.

- 1) Sign-ups will open up at the first April Troop meeting. After that meeting we will also accept sign ups by email.
- 2) The Email address has changed from last year. The new address is: [flyingcloud@troop695.org](mailto:flyingcloud@troop695.org)
- 3) This year we will post and update worked hours on the website. This will help you keep track of your status. If a discrepancy is found, send an email and ask for help.
- 4) This year you will find a receipt book inside the cash box. Fill out a receipt and take it home. If needed, it will prove you worked the shift. This is important!



**Eagle Preview Meeting** – Attendance at an Eagle Preview meeting is highly recommended to all Star and Life Scouts, and their parents, working toward Eagle Rank. These meetings are only held twice per year and provide you with a complete picture of what is needed to complete the Eagle rank requirements.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at 7 pm at Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Road, Edina.

For more information, contact Don Jacobson at 952.937.8051.

### Troop Court of Honor

A Troop Court of Honor is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 pm. 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. Please make note of the merit badge and rank advancement deadlines on the calendars and articles included within the newsletter.