



# Up Etowah Creek...

**Etowah Creek District BSA Newsletter**  
Indian Waters Council in the Midlands of South Carolina, USA



**Vol. 6 No. 8 March 2008**

**Welcome** to Etowah Creek District [ECD Scout Roundtable in Columbia, South Carolina.

This showcase for Leaders and older youth is held on the 2nd Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 p.m. We meet at Ashland Methodist Church on Ashland Rd. (off of St. Andrew's Rd.). Take a minute to read this newsletter, as that will keep the number of announcements to a minimum! This newsletter is always available at Roundtable, through your Unit Commissioners and Training Team, and from your DE, Tom McGrath. Please photocopy and distribute this freely to your units and leaders. Call me or email me if you need additional hard copies or an electronic copy, or if you spot an error.

**Welcome!**

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BSRT Commissioner and Editor "Up Etowah Creek"  
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## Next Month at April Roundtable: Scouters Cook-off and Show-off

Prizes will be given for dishes that are voted as the best in each category. Voting will be done by the Roundtable participants. All Unit Levels are invited to participate.

- 🍴 Desserts
- 🍴 Main Dish
- 🍴 Dutch Oven Dishes
- 🍴 Foil packs
- 🍴 Backpacking (dehydrated) dishes



Get your entries ready! Details will arrive in your mail or email [lmcgraw@sc.rr.com](mailto:lmcgraw@sc.rr.com)

If you have an item for the newsletter, please submit it by the second Monday of the month to [lmcgraw@sc.rr.com](mailto:lmcgraw@sc.rr.com)

**Mark your calendar!**

**District Awards Banquet April 24**

**Who will be the Scouter of the Year?**

Scoutmaster or Cubmaster of the Year?

Is there someone that you think should be awarded the **District Award of Merit**? How about that family of Scouts and Scouters? Shouldn't they be honored as **Scouting Family of the Year**? The volunteers that deserve recognition most will likely never think to ask about awards. Do you want to say Thank You to the folks that help you bear the load? Reward their efforts by recognizing them and then attending the Banquet.

Watch your mail for reservation information but save the Date! **April 24 at 6:30 pm**

**They will not win if you do not nominate them.**

Nomination forms are due to Tom McGrath at the Scout Office by **April 14**

Take a few moments to recognize the folks that labor mightily for your Scouts, Cubs, and Venturers and for the youth and adults of the District.



To be matter-of-fact about the world is to blunder into fantasy - and dull fantasy at that, as the real world is strange and wonderful. ~ Robert Heinlein

## Scouting Green Tip

**A Scout is Thrifty!** *Did you know none* of your recyclables need to be spotless, since most "contaminants" get cleaned out or burned away during remanufacturing? That makes recycling even easier and **uses less water**. It takes about two glasses of water to clean out a glass jar; you'll save water by not rinsing your recyclables until they're spick-and-span, just enough to keep the critters away.

**Council Pinewood Derby registrations are due March 27.** Please have your Pack contact the council by that date.



## Millennium Goals

To help combat social injustice, we need to help develop greater awareness of human needs (access to water, health care, human rights, etc.). Each of us can take action to help bring about social changes that can make the world a more just and human place.

~WOSM - Youth Of The World/Scouts Of The World  
[www.youthoftheworld.net](http://www.youthoftheworld.net)

## Calling All Unit Commissioners

What does a Commissioner do?

Commissioners are district and council leaders who help Scout units succeed. They coach and consult with adult leaders of Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews.

**Unit Commissioners** are appointed by the district commissioner with the approval of the council executive board.

Unit commissioners should

- Have excellent people skills
- Have a Scouting background or be fast-track learners
- Know and practice Scouting ideals

**If you wish to be considered** for a position as a Unit Commissioner, or want more information about it, please email our District Commissioner, Milton Quattlebaum [mpqandrhq@bellsouth.net](mailto:mpqandrhq@bellsouth.net) or call Emmitt Sherron (803)405-0885 [sherrone@bellsouth.net](mailto:sherrone@bellsouth.net) to see about availability and training.

## Eagle Application News: Changes for 2008

The new printing of the Eagle Scout Rank Application, No. 58-728, has a notable change. Now, under Requirement 5, the *name of the candidate's Eagle project is required*, as well as the grand total of hours devoted to it (from page 10 of the Eagle Scout Leadership Project Workbook). **The new application will be required beginning May 1, 2008.**

### Notes from Tom

Tom McGrath, our District Executive, wants to make sure that you remember the following items:



**Centennial Quality Units:**  
**Make sure you recharter on time**, as it is part of the Centennial Quality Unit (CQU) goals. Call or email Tom.

- ✦ Make sure to get your registration in for Summer Camp (both Troops and Packs) as the weeks are starting to fill up. There is a \$50/ Troop deposit for the reservation.
- ✦ Staff Members for Summer camp are still needed. Please apply today.

Tom McGrath *District Executive* [tmcgrath@bsaemail.org](mailto:tmcgrath@bsaemail.org)  
 750-9868 Ext 110 Cell (803) 622-8029

## Spring 2 Camp Coupons are now on sale

This is a perfect chance for the youth in your unit to make money, earn prizes, and provide some great discount coupons for their family and friends.

**Double Prize Points deadline is March 27, 2008**, so be sure to get your sales turned in by that time.

For more information, please call Rosemary Teed at 772-3682

## Have Fun and Get Paid, Too!

**Be on the Summer Camp Staff**  
 Ages 15 and up. Go to the Camp Barstow website for an application.  
[www.campbarstow.org](http://www.campbarstow.org)



### Dates to Remember!

**Check the Council Calendar!** [www.indianwaters.org](http://www.indianwaters.org)  
**Online Training is also available on the Council Website**

#### March

- 27 Double Points Deadline *Spring2Camp* sales
- 29 Merit Badge University
- 29-30 Palmetto Sportsman's Classic at the Fairgrounds

#### April

- 10 Roundtable – Ashland UMC 7:00 pm **Cooking Contest!**
- 11-13 - Family Camping Weekend
- 17 – Life to Eagle Seminar- see [www.indianwaters.org](http://www.indianwaters.org)
- 19 Cub Leader Basics, O'burg see [www.indianwaters.org](http://www.indianwaters.org)
- 26 - Pinewood Derby Championship Races

#### May

- 2-4 - Shooting Sports Camporee
- 8 Roundtable – Ashland UMC 7:00 pm **Summer Camp Follies**

#### June

- 12- Cub Resident Camp Starts at Barstow
  - 16 – Week 1 Summer Camp
  - 29 Webelos Waters at Barstow
- Etowah Creek District Trainings: Call Joan Janoch 345-5700 for more info

## Some Thoughts about New Boys and Summer Camp

### Some tips for Scoutmasters and Parents:



- Get the camping equipment list to the parents and a copy to the scout as soon as they crossover or join. Many items are on sale before the season starts.
- Give a list of things that must be brought to camp and items to leave behind.
- Make sure that the scout and the parents label *all* items in the Scout's possession with a troop number and name, even both socks. Take a black laundry marker to mark items that were

forgotten. If the boys get camp t-shirts, be sure to mark them also.

- **Those older scouts will be your best resource for helping out the younger boys.** Have the older boys in the troop talk to the younger ones and tell them about camp and how much fun it is. Show pictures of the scouts in your troop at the last summer camp, and have the boys have a "Remember when..." session. **Be sure to tell the leadership in the troop to avoid the horror stories about camp unless they are funny and do not put down another scout.** The older boys should invite the younger ones and let the new scouts know that they will have a friend in camp. They can even tell about how they really missed home, but they were glad that they stayed.
- If your troop has a competition or game that is played at camp, play the game or prepare for the competition in a troop meeting soon after the new boys have joined, but long before they go to camp. If there is something familiar to look forward to, they will look at camp very positively.
- Tell the younger scouts to bring a board game for the scouts to play at night before going to bed. It increases camaraderie and keeps the scouts busy. Anticipation will help make the scout positive.
- Talk to parents frankly, but out of earshot of the boy. Ask if there are any problems with homesickness, bedwetting, sleepwalking, or behavior disorders that you should know about. Work out a plan ahead of time on what the parent and troop response will be to the problem if it comes up.
- Consider *not* having the first-year boys take the "Pathfinder", "New Scout" or similar programs that are advancement oriented, especially if the course takes all day. Encourage the scout to choose fun, outdoor merit badges, such as swimming, archery, boating, and outdoor cooking for their first year at camp. Leave time for free swimming in the afternoon. Have them avoid merit badge classes that are too much like school, with lots of listening and writing.

Camp is *in* the outdoors, so make it *fun* in the outdoors. A small amount of preparation and a large amount of communication will help the new scout have a great time at summer camp.

**Record your "Good Turn" hours on the web**  
 The BSA, through their **Good Turn for America** program, are focusing on supporting issues connected to food, shelter, and good health habits. Their project is a call to service to help provide adequate food and shelter and to develop good health habits in the country. The Scouts can record their service hours and to inform people of what they have done on the project's website  
[www.goodturnforamerica.org](http://www.goodturnforamerica.org)

# GeekCreek:

*Up Etowah Creek's Scouting* picks for techies, electronic entertainment, and the web.

**Geek Creek**  
**Free Tool of the Month**  
[www.Jott.com](http://www.Jott.com)  
**Dictate an Email or Voice Reminder on Your Cell Phone**

**This is so good! Never miss a Roundtable or Pack Planning session again!** Phone a special number, dictate a reminder message with a date and time and you will receive a reminder email and/or phone call at that time along with the message you dictated. Pity that cell phone manufacturers don't provide a similar functionality in the cell phone itself. [www.jott.com](http://www.jott.com)

**Geek Creek Best of the Month**  
**Best Websites for Scouts**

**[www.e-scoutcraft.com](http://www.e-scoutcraft.com)**  
 Terrific Scout crafts, tricks and puzzles, and tons of Neckerchief slide ideas

**[www.scoutlists.com](http://www.scoutlists.com)**  
 Ever wonder what to take on a camping trip with new Scouts? What should a Northern Tier-bound Canoe-crew take, versus a Just -Canoeing-Across-A-Pond outing? ScoutLists.com was first envisioned by Bill, a Scoutmaster who found himself giving the same information to dozens of new scouts and their parents each year. It dawned on him that each piece of gear may be required, optional, or unneeded depending on the activity you are doing, when you are doing it, and where you are doing it. Bill put together a team that defined almost 70,000 data points around when a piece of gear is needed/optional/unneeded for a given activity, in a given climate, during a given season, and a way was created to give you, the adventurer, a simple way to access that data to generate a packing list that we think will be appropriate for what you are doing, where you are doing it, and when you are going. **Great site!**



**What's in the Sky Tonight?**  
**Google Sky, Moon, and Mars**  
[www.google.com/sky](http://www.google.com/sky)    [www.google.com/moon](http://www.google.com/moon)  
[www.google.com/mars](http://www.google.com/mars)


You can find the positions of the planets and constellations on the sky and even watching the birth of distant galaxies as seen by the Hubble Space Telescope. For what's happening on the sky tonight or over the next few months, check out the podcasts from Earth and Sky or search for the position of your favorite planet.

**How to Take Night photos**  
<http://www.digitalfieldguide.com/blog/853>



**Youth Protection Resources**  
**FamilyWatchdog.us**  
 Check for the presence of sex offenders in your neighborhood, near your schools, and near your pack, troop, or crew meeting sites and get email alerts if one moves nearby. Free. [www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us)

**New on the SCOUTING.ORG site!**  
 RSS is now on the National Site  
 What is RSS? Basically it is a subscriber button that lets you know when there are updates or changed to the website.  
 So if you want to know when changes are made on the National BSA site, just click on the RSS feed button and check your newsreader once in a while.



**Cub Scout Resources**

**Cubcasts!**  
 Cubcast is an audio podcast from BSA featuring a variety of how-to and information topics for Cub Scout leaders and parents. Subscribe to the RSS automatic feed or download individual episodes.  
**[www.scouting.org/cubscouts/podcast](http://www.scouting.org/cubscouts/podcast)**  
**Abacadabra, Bullying - March 2008**  
 Now you see it, now you don't! But you can always hear it on March's Cubcast, as we discuss ways to enhance the April theme of Abacadabra with Toni Welch, an experienced Cubmaster trainer. Plus, get some sound advice on how to deal with bullies from Dr. Carol Watkins (For April 2008 Theme)  
**Scouting the Net**  
[www.scoutingthenet.com/Training/Roundtable/Handouts/Baloo's Bugle:](http://www.scoutingthenet.com/Training/Roundtable/Handouts/Baloo's Bugle)  
<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/bbugle2007-2008.asp>  
**ScoutParents** Join today! [www.scoutparents.org](http://www.scoutparents.org)



**Want to monitor online usage?**  
**On the sly?**  
**Sentry Lite 1.0**  
 Sentry Lite is free Internet monitoring software that offers parents and computer administrators the ability to monitor both sides of instant message conversations, Web sites visited and remain completely stealth in the process. With Sentry Lite's innovative Web-based control panel you can monitor a computer from any other computer in the world.  
<http://tinyurl.com/2xl72f>  
 Or check Download.com- Search for Monitoring Software



**Free Music- Many old Scout Songs**  
**[www.honkingduck.com](http://www.honkingduck.com)**

Listen to hundreds of recordings of old time music from the original sources. Search through thousands of 78 rpm recordings.

**UberGeek: Speak to Me!**  
**Web 2.0 Adding Voice to your applications!**  
 If you're into Web applications that have to do with voice, and want to dig beneath the top-level products of Skype, Gizmo Project, Yahoo Messenger, Google Talk, etc., there's a collection of widgets and things gathered from around the Web into a gallery at MyVox that is cool. One called **Voice Map** is a mashup of Google Maps and the **MyVox API**, and allows you to create a custom map on top of which you can record a message to embed in one or more pushpins. Many more at [www2.myvox.com](http://www2.myvox.com)

## Youth Protection Issues: Urgent Information to be shared

**Recent events in our council regarding the sexual exploitation of a Scout by a trusted volunteer have increased the urgency of educating our parents and youth about the Youth Protection Policies of the BSA.**

In addition, the burgeoning use of electronic communication such as cell-phones and text-messaging/photo sharing has created a new wrinkle and loophole that can be exploited by possible abusers to your child and the youth in your program. Technology has us playing 'catch-up' in many ways.

Careful leadership selection through background checks, letters of recommendation, and reputation are simply not enough. However, the barriers that BSA erects are 5-fold, with careful leadership selection being only one of them. The good news is that if all BSA policies are followed and known by the unit and the parents, the opportunity for abuse will likely be removed or be made so risky that the perpetrator will not risk involvement.

**The solution is to have every adult and youth educated as to what is allowed and what is not allowed in the BSA program.** The BSA has it covered in the unit and youth-appropriate Youth Protection Training (YPT) videos, online and in-person training, and in the Guide to Safe Scouting and other documents (available for free online).

So how will you protect yourself and your adult leaders from false accusation, your child from exploitation, and the unit from scandal and humiliation, and yet still give the ever-important adult contact and role-modeling that is so important to our program?

Some items that you should be aware of:

1) Recent changes in the **Boy Scout Requirements** (January 2008) include information about bullying and Internet abuse by cyber bullies and others.

2) **New Youth Protection videos** (that supplement the Youth Protection Training available online and through your training teams) are now available on DVD for both adults and youth in all sections (Cubs, Scouts, and Venturing) and will be available for free at Roundtable for all units and interested persons. (VHS versions may also be available upon request). The training team is always available to help you with presentations or to answer questions.

3) **Electronic threats** to your child's personal, physical, and mental well-being should be identified and discussed by your unit committee and the adults in your unit. Roundtable and the training team will have information about ways that Scouters, parents, and youth can safely use the Internet, text messaging and other electronic communications that proliferate in our culture.

Scout Roundtable and the *Up Etowah Creek* Newsletter will also have information on ways that parents can find out if their child is being abused/bullied by others or is abusing others, behavioral tell-

tales to watch for, how to track usage of cell phones and Internet site visits, establish security barriers for communication devices (computers, cell phones, PDAs, etc) and more.

4) Safety in Traveling: Know how and when to properly file a Tour Permit, know what the council has on updates on Tour Permits, and upcoming changes in the filing of Tour Permits (there is the possibility of online filing in the future).

### What Every Unit Should Be Stressing:

**Youth Protection Training** is important for all members of the unit, adults and youth alike. **Get your unit trained**, in person or online. And if your unit leaders say that you do not need to be trained, they are wrong. Protect yourself and your children by knowing and enacting the policies and procedures of the BSA.

- ALL youth must be told that one-on-one contact of any sort (in person or electronically) with an adult who is not their parent is not allowed in the BSA, and what they should do if it happens.
- ALL youth need to be encouraged to watch out for each other and be made aware that bullying and/or harassment is not tolerated in the BSA, from adults or from youth.
- ALL parents must be educated so that they know what the rules are and what to look for: for example, that if a leader brings their child home from a meeting, there must be another child (the leader's son for example) or 2 adults in the car with them
- ALL parents, youth, leaders, and volunteers need to know what to do and who to contact if suspicions are raised.

**All Youth Protection Videos are available for free** in DVD and/or VHS format from the Scout Shop, your training team, or your Unit Commissioner. Training materials, helps, and guides and a complete list of available publications are also available online at <http://scouting.org/pubs/yp/index.html>

**Online Youth Protection Training is available for all levels through the council website at [www.indianwaters.org](http://www.indianwaters.org).** Create an account and be sure to print off the final page when the training is completed, so that you will get credit through your unit (pack, troop, or crew) for being currently trained. The next in-person Youth Protection Training will take place on February 26 at 7:00 pm at Faith Presbyterian Church. Register online through the council website. Cost is \$3: pre-register and pay at the Scout Shop, or on-line by February 22, 2008.

For more information, to arrange a Youth Protection Training for your unit, or to air a question or concern about Youth Protection in a pack, troop, or crew, please call Etowah Creek District YPT specialist Joan Janoch 345-5700, or email

***[youthprotection@etowahcreekbsa.org](mailto:youthprotection@etowahcreekbsa.org)***

*If you have a suspicion about abuse in your pack, troop, or crew, or elsewhere in the BSA, please contact Scout Executive **Larry Brown** at [lbrown@bsaemail.org](mailto:lbrown@bsaemail.org), IWC 715 Betsy Drive, Columbia, SC 29202 (803)750-986*