



Up Etowah Creek...



Etowah Creek District BSA Newsletter Vol. 4 No. 5 December 2002

Welcome to Etowah Creek District [ECD] Cub Scout Leader and Boy Scout Leader Roundtable in Columbia, South Carolina. This showcase for Leaders 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.) Be sure to pick up a copy of Smoke Signals, our Council newspaper, and a packet of handouts. Take a minute to read this newsletter, as that will keep the number of announcements to a minimum! This newsletter is also available online at www.etowahcreek.com/rtnews/dec02news.pdf Welcome!
Lorie McGraw 750-0626 lmcgraw@sc.rr.com Webmaster for ECD

Thank You Cub Roundtable

The **Wateree District Cub Leader Roundtable Team** would like to thank **Sheryl Wechsler** for allowing us to visit the November Cub Leader Roundtable. We appreciate the hard work she puts into roundtables and the ideas she shared with us. We had a great time.



News from National BSA Headquarters:

BSA will Require Background Checks for New Leaders Soon

(as reported in AP/UP) Boy Scouts will be requiring background checks of new adult volunteers. Those who do not get clearance won't be allowed to join. Other youth organizations, such as Little League, already require background checks of all adult volunteers. A spokesman says the organization's national executive council has engaged ChoicePoint, a background-checking company, to handle the job of reviewing national and state government databases. After 2 years the cost of the background checking will revert to the charter organizations or local councils. Membership will be prohibited if the background check turns up convictions for sex crimes, crimes of violence, or drug offenses. The requirements will take effect in April. New volunteers will sign forms agreeing to the checks. Those forms are being distributed now and should be in the IW Council office soon. All old Adult Applications are to be disposed by April once the new ones are available. While the backgrounds of current adult volunteers are not being checked, that may be required in years to come.

Tour Permits and Youth Protection

Download the form here:

<http://www.scouting.org/forms/34426.pdf>

Effective January 2003 both the local tour permit and the national tour permit application will include a requirement that at least one adult present during the event or activity must have completed the BSA Youth Protection Training. The national tour permit will continue to include the requirement that all registered adults must have completed the BSA Youth Protection Training for participation in a nationally sponsored event or activity.

Indian Waters Council has established that Youth Protection must renewed every two (2) years.

Check your Youth Protection cards to see if they have expired. Adults must have taken the full 90-minute YPT after January 2001 to be able to take a troop, crew, or den on an outing.

Youth Protection Training may be arranged by calling Joan Janoch at 345-5700.

Youth Protection Training to be offered in February



"I just don't have the time to attend."
Youth Protection Training is only 60-90 minutes, or less time than 1 football game or 2 shows of Oprah. *If you don't know what BSA policy is, how can you make sure that your den or pack is following it?* Thanks to Youth Protection training and the policies that BSA has enacted, our sons are safer in Scouting than they are in just about any other venue for youth. The bottom line is this: The most important way that you can be sure that your den, pack, troop, crew is following current policy, and therefore *doing your best* to protect your son, is to make sure that you and your unit's parents are trained in *current* Youth Protection. Youth Protection is also now required on all Tour Permits. Take care of it today! And if your unit leader says that only one person in your unit needs the training, then you need to call Joan. **ALL parents and leaders should be trained in current Youth Protection procedures.** If you are not sure, then you need to be trained.

On February 13, 2003 we will be offering Youth Protection Training (YPT) for all parents before our monthly Roundtable at Ashland United Methodist Church

For additional information, call Joan Janoch at 345-5700

Awards season is here!

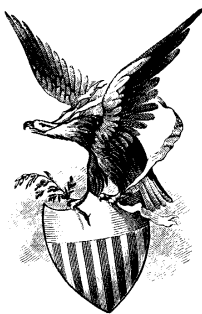
The **Silver Beaver** nominations are due in the Scout Office on **January 8th, 2003**. Pick up a nomination form at the Scout Office.

Don't forget to nominate your fellow Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Den Leaders, Scouters, and Scouting Families for the annual District Volunteer Awards.

What a perfect way to say Thank You for the hard work they do all year.

There are Unit Awards and District-wide awards, too. Watch your mail for more information. **The District Volunteers Awards Banquet will be on Thursday May 15, 2003**

Call 750-0626 or e-mail lmcgraw@sc.rr.com if you want to help.



Indian Waters Council Website is online www.iwc-bsa.com has a new look and information for your units. Check it out! And don't forget to look on www.etowahcreek.com for your updated Scouting Program in the Lexington 5 and 2 areas.

Parents of Webelos Scouts: Looking for a troop?

Download this pamphlet today.
<http://www.etowahcreek.com/downloads/W2Stransfinal2.pdf>

Local Pack and Troop News

Troop 312, Irmo, spent the weekend Dec. 6-8 at Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. Saturday was a "Working for Wildlife" Day sponsored by the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, where the Troop and others cleared trails and raked around red-cockaded woodpecker nest trees in preparation for controlled burns. A highlight of the trip was seeing the installation of an artificial nest box for the endangered woodpeckers on the refuge. The Troop also earned "polar bear camping" nights on both nights when the temperature was 20 degrees or less. The cold weather was especially interesting as no campfires are allowed on the refuge. In fact, camping is not allowed except through special arrangement for this special workday.



To participate in Working for Wildlife contact the SC Wildlife Federation at 803-256-0670 or www.scwf.org.

February 8th will be a BIG NIGHT for



Scouts and Scouters at the Inferno Hockey Game. Wear your uniform and bring 3 cans of food for special fun and prizes.

Do you like a sense of competition? Collecting food in the Scouting For Food Program can earn your unit a ribbon for your pack or troop flag!

SFF Land Rush in January

What should you do to get ready for the Big Land Rush? Scope out your territory! This year we are asking that your unit go to each and every home in the area that you claim. Last year we discovered large areas that were not given bags even though the area had been claimed by a Cub Pack or Scout Troop. We need to get past the idea that we cover only those territories where our boys live and begin to think in terms of helping the whole community to contribute food to needy, hungry people. We need to get past the idea of doing a little food drive and think of the scouts participating in the service of helping the community to fill all of the local food pantries and food banks.

See the 2003 patch. Go to www.etowahcreek.com and click on the Scouting For Food link.

Guide to Safe Scouting

<http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/index.html>

Print out or view online

You must have a copy of this document when you travel.

If you have news or events for your troop, pack, or crew, or if you have seen a Scout or Scouter's picture in the paper, please submit it to this newsletter by e-mailing Lorie McGraw lmcgraw@sc.rr.com, or by phoning 750-0626.

Hear ye, Hear ye

There will be a land rush in the territory of Etowah on the 9th day of January in the year of our Lord, 2003, at 6:15 PM at Ashland united Methodist church. This event will help to determine the areas for the units to "Scout for Food". Specially printed bags will be available that night. All packs and scout troops within the district need to attend this night of planning and strategy.



Internet Site of the Month



Important Dates

District Calendar is Online!

Training Dates, Events, District Meeting info, Council Events, etc. Check on the www.etowahcreek.com website and click on District Calendar. Or go directly to http://www.calsnet.net/etowah_calendar

<http://www.dltk-cards.com/award/>

Have a special event that requires an award or certificate? DLTK's custom awards allows you to customize an award for your particular occasion. Choose from a variety of themes and then enter and format your own title and message text.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

January 2003

- 9 Scouting for Food Land Rush
- 25 University of Scouting

February 2003

- 1 Scouting for Food Bag Drop off
- 2 Scout Sunday
- 7 Scouting for Food Bag Pick Up
- 13 Roundtable with Youth Protection (at 6:30)

March

Merit Badge University

Youth Protection Training Dates 2003:

Feb. 13 Before Roundtable AUMC 6:30 pm
Call Joan Janoch if you need other training dates for YPT

American Scouting Digest is Coming

Enter to win a free Sleeping Bag and

subscribe today!

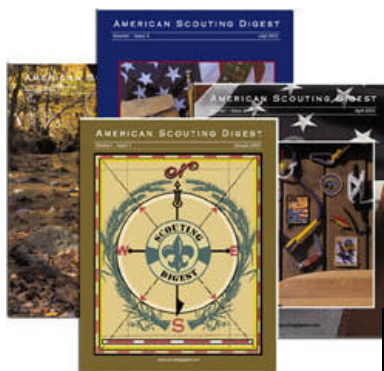
The mission of American Scouting Digest is to promote the ideals of Scouting as Scouters nationwide share their experiences. Great articles, great stories, great fun. Pick up subscription forms at the Scout Shop, Roundtable or on the web.

Quarterly/\$22/yr.

Makes a great Christmas Gift for all of the Scouters on your list.

Single issues also available.

www.scoutingdigest.com



Calling All Scouters! Come join the fun!

We hope that you'll join us at Roundtable on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:30 PM. This year, in addition to covering the monthly Cub Scout themes, we'll also have a special training highlight (see list below). Come get new ideas, meet new people, share stories, and pick up plenty of valuable information! Contact Sheryl Wechsler with any questions (407-1095 or sherylw@sc.rr.com).

When you make a mistake, make amends immediately.

It's easier to eat crow while it's still warm.



The Christmas Story

The God born a man in a manger and all of that escapes some moderns, mostly, I think, because they seek complex answers to their questions, and this one is so utterly simple. So for the cynics and the skeptics and the unconvinced I submit a modern parable about a man who was not a Scrooge. He was a kind, he was a decent, he was a mostly good man. He was generous to his family and upright in his dealings with other men, but he just did not believe all of that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense, and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just could not swallow the Jesus story about God coming to earth as a man.

"I'm truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, "but I'm not going to church with you this Christmas Eve." He said that he would feel like a hypocrite, that he would just rather stay home, and he would wait up for them, and he stayed, and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier, and then he went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper.

Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound, and then another, and then another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window, but when he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he could not just let the poor creatures lie there and freeze. He just could not do that, so he remembered the barn where the children stabled their ponies. That would provide a warm shelter if he could direct the birds to it.

Quickly he put on a coat and galoshes. He tramped through the deepening snow to the barn, and he opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds would not come in. He figured that food would entice them, so he hurried back to the house and fetched breadcrumbs and sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide-open doorway of the stable.

But to his dismay the birds ignored the breadcrumbs and continued to just flop around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them. He tried shooing them, chasing them into the barn by walking around them and waving his arms. Instead they scattered in every direction, except into the warm-lighted barn.

And then he realized what was the matter. They were afraid of him.

"To them," he reasoned, "I'm a strange, terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me, that I'm not trying to hurt them but to help them, but how?" Any move that he made tended to frighten them and confuse them. They would just not follow. They would not be led. They would not be shooed--because they feared him.

"If only I could be a bird," he thought, "and mingle with them and speak their language and tell them not to be afraid and show them the way to the safe, warm barn. But I'd have to be one of them so that they could see and hear and understand." At that moment the church bells began to ring.

The sound reached his ears above the sound of the wind. He stood there listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.

And he sank to his knees in the snow.

----- by Lewis Cassells as told by Paul Harvey

The Ten Commandments of Pinewood Derby

1. Thou shall have no other car except thy own boy- built car.
2. Thou shall not exceed 5 ounces for thy car.
3. Thou shall not swear, or grumble or even bite thy lip over any race result, whether thou be Scout, sibling or relative.
4. Remember Pinewood Derby is for the Kids, and thou shall keep it for the Kids always.
5. Honor thy race committee and judges, lest thou be thanked for volunteering to be the next PWD Committee chair.
6. Thou shall not kill a Scout's happiness on Pinewood Derby day by acting like a bad sport.
7. Thou shall not commit acts that undermine the bonds of parent and child.
8. Thou shall not steal the enthusiasm of any child on race day.
9. Thou shall not bear false witness as to any race result.
10. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's car, nor thy neighbor's graphite, nor thy neighbor's decals, nor thy neighbor's good fortune.



The Five Most Dangerous Things in Boy Scouts

- A Patrol leader saying, "I learned this in JLT."
- A Tenderfoot saying, "Based on my experience..."
- A Eagle Scout chuckling, "Watch this..."
- A Scoutmaster saying "When I was a scout..."
- A Commissioner saying, "Trust me..."