



TROOP 181 BSA COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 23, 2007

Present: Phil Reece, Belinda Cowdrey, Brian Murphy, Eric Schmidt, Sandy Schwartz, Craig Louthain, Bob Voll, Greg Poulisse, Dannette Holifield, Terry Nichols, MaryAnn Bushaw, Ed Blondin, Bill LeFevre, Paul McCaffrey, and Lois Blondin.

Meeting started at 8:18 PM

Treasurer's Report: Greg Poulisse gave a monthly report and an annualized report.

Next Committee Meeting: The next committee meeting is February 27, 2007.

Past Events

Astronomy merit badge (November 4): (8/22) The MB will be offered on November 4th at the Discovery Center. It will cost \$20 per Scout. The museum is open until 5:00. This course would run 4-8:00pm. Phil suggests we bring in pizza. Two suggestions include: charging the scouts for the merit badge or having the scouts pay for the food. This is a more expensive merit badge. Another suggestion is Scouts pay for merit badge and bring a brown bag. There is a minimum of 10 kids. Suggested to see how many are interested. Terry should bring it up at the next scout meeting. We will discuss this again at next committee meeting. (9/19) Phil is going to put together an announcement. \$20 per scout and adults are free. Phil made a deposit. (10/10) We have 19 to 20 scouts signed-up tonight. They will brown-bag for their meal. (11/28) This was postponed! He's looking at new dates in March. All collected funds will be refunded. We may possibly need to make it in February, because of the Council Merit Badge Event in March.. (12/18) Phil needs someone else to take-over the event. Someone needs to sit down with the Discovery Center lady and go over the requirements. Terry volunteered. (1/23) All the money has been refunded to accounts or individuals.

Christmas Party (Dec. 19, 2006): \$7.50 for gift exchange. Eric will do Pizza again. He needs a printout of last years purchase. Need to ask at troop meetings if boys and parents are coming for party; to get a reasonable count. Lois will do the drinks (pop) and paper products. (12/18) 97 people are expected. Four families are bringing desserts. Ed has coupons for Salamones Pizza, 106 N Cherry Street. Eric is ordering 14 pizzas. Terry wants a group digital picture to send to the Courier. Belinda will bring her camera. (1/23) It went well; 86 people attended. Eric spent \$207 on pizzas; he added 2; and got a 10% discount.

Lake Ripley camp-in (Jan. 12-14): (10/10) Yes; we are signed-up, but it is not confirmed. They do not confirm this far in advance. (11/28) Terry will confirm reservation with Dave Walling some time in December. Terry will check to see if we could possibly change it to the following weekend. However, he likes having it early; otherwise it gets too close to the February campout at Russell Woods. A suggestion: We could leave from the camp-in and go to Klondike and then go back to the camp-in. (12/18) We have a confirmation from Dave Walling. We have the original weekend; the troop that will be using it the following weekend cannot trade with us. Suggested we recheck intended participation at tomorrow night's meeting. (1/23) 13 scouts, 5 adults, and 2 visitors went. We need to make sure we have medical forms for our visitors also.

Klondike Derby (Jan. 13): (9/19) Are we running events or are we participating in events? We are competing!

(11/28) Event got changed to the 13th. (12/18) Alexander did a poll: 19 wanted just Ripley, 4 wanted to go to Klondike, and 2 wanted to do both Lake Ripley and Klondike. A group could possibly staff an event only, but Eric cannot do it, because he has a commitment with Venture's at Snow Storm. (1/23) 1 adult and 2 scouts served on staff. They worked the spider web event.

Leather Merit Badge (Jan. 16 & 23): (10/10) Ed is doing it during Scout meetings in January. (11/28) It will be done in 2 sessions. (12/18) January 16th and 23rd are the dates. Ed wanted to know if we want the same project for everyone. The following week, we are making tie slides within the troop. Is this for everyone, or just those who need the merit badge? If not for everyone, others would work on advancement. Ed has all the leather and tools at home. There is not enough equipment for all to work on leather projects at once. At the January 9th PLC meeting, they'll discuss alternative activities. Possible suggestion: bring the trailer and get it reorganized. (1/23) No damages or injuries – success! 8 or 9 scouts earned it.

Adult OA Elections: (11/28) We need to consider who is eligible for 2007. We can only elect one. It must be someone who is willing to be truly committed. (12/18) Terry needs to establish who is eligible. Sandy, MaryAnn, Lois, Ed, Paul, Dannette, and Steve are eligible. Sandy, Lois, Ed, and Paul are not interested. Greg is an inactive member but will pay his dues soon. Ken was elected in 2006. (See official requirements.) (1/23) Dannette, MaryAnn and Steve are still possibilities. Dannette declined. Terry will check with Steve. Phil suggested that we take a vote between the 2. We voted and MaryAnn was elected.

Future Events

Tie Slide night (Jan. 30): (12/18) Sandy needs help. (1/23) MaryAnn, Deb Lindstrom, Ken Hoxie and Lois Blondin are working with it. Sandy still needs glue guns, extension cords, and power strips. Paul McCaffrey will work on getting fingerprints on wood.

Russell Woods (Feb 9-11, 2007): (11/18) Terry will confirm the reservation. (12/18) Terry has not talked to Bill Prain yet. (1/23) Terry talked with Bill. Deposit check will be mailed out tomorrow. Good to go.

F.o.S. (Feb. 13, 2007): (11/28) Need someone to work with district for the Friends of Scouting presentation. Terry sent an email for February 13th to Jim Behrensmeyer. Phil will talk with Terry about it later. Phil discussed arrangements with Mark in detail last year. (12/18) Terry put our name in for February 13th. Jim confirmed our request. Phil was told they have a DVD available now. (1/23) Phil talked with Jim and we are ready to go. Craig is doing our presentation and coordinating it.

Blue and Gold Banquets (Feb): (12/18) February 11th from Pack 400, 1-4:00pm. Greg needs a representative to accept boys into Troop 181. Pack 429 is February 24th. Pack 121 is on February 18th. Pack 600 has boys coming into Troop 181, date unknown. Paul will check into the date. (1/23) 3 Webelos will graduate from Pack 600 on Feb. 25. Webelos information letters were sent regarding our Troop. 2 boys will graduate from Pack 400. 3 may come from Pack 429; possibly 6. We may get 2, possibly 3, from Pack 121. A couple boys came to our Webelos Open House; they weren't from any of these Packs; Sandy will follow-up.

Scouting for Food (Feb. 24 and March 3, 2007): (11/28) We believe Craig will be heading this up again, he did not decline. (12/18) Craig still has not declined running it. (1/23) Craig will run it for our Troop, but he is not doing it for the District. Craig will put together a generic notice. There is a conflict on the pickup date with the Merit Badge Learn and Earn and the Pancake Day. We will have to plan accordingly. The plan will have to be filed with the District so there are no overlaps. It needs to be put together by Family Night.

Merit Badge Learn and Earn, (March 3 and 24): (12/18) Terry distributed information sheets. (1/23) It's necessary to sign-up by February 1. So far, only 2 have signed-up for it. We need to make sure that those Merit Badge books are in our files. Ben Hoxie, Librarian, needs to check into this.

Scout Order of the Arrow (Mar 13): (11/28) Dues are due now, December 1. They are \$13.00 annually. If you do not pay, you should take your pocket patch off. (1/23) The election is coming-up on March 13.

Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner (Mar. 25, 2007): (11/28) Terry mentioned Nathaniel IS an Eagle Scout. It has been confirmed. Anyone interested in the dinner needs to make reservations when it comes up. Nathaniel should submit pictures of his Eagle Project. (12/18) It is on our troop calendar. (1/23) We have a couple there.

NAYLE (National NYLT) (Jun 2007): (7/18) Alex and Matt have been elected to go to the national NYLT, with Nick as an alternate. Eight 2006 staff members from NYLT were elected to go; with four alternates. The event takes place at Philmont, the week after the local course. A letter will be sent by NYLT to the participants detailing the event. Alex Reece will inform this Committee in August. (8/22) It's is a one week course that over a 6 week period. '06 NAYLE was one week after NYLT. What is the transportation? Most drove, one took a train. They do not care how the scouts get there, just that they can get there. 3 boys may go; 2 elected ones and 1 alternate. It will benefit our troop if those boys will use their training for the troop's benefit. They have to write a "commitment." No one from this troop has gone before. The course fee is \$290. Our council will pay \$100. Terry suggested it will cost them about \$190 plus cost of transportation. He suggested that the scout pays \$50; and the troop pays \$140. Refund \$50 after they fulfill their commitment. Paul suggested that we come up with various options for transportation costs and offer to pay the equivalent to the cheapest one. The scout would pay the difference if they want to use a more expensive way. We voted to accept Terry's suggestion; will vote on the transportation costs later. We voted to keep original plan. (11/28) Bring up again in March '07. (12/18) Scouts received a letter; fee is \$305. Two are going and one alternate. \$100 scholarships were being put up by council NYLT. Transportation is not part of the fee. Phil was told transportation could be about \$200. NAYLE staff still needs to choose which week they want to attend. We need transportation cost by May. Budget transportation cost at least 2 months in advance. They are having a meeting in January. (1/23) The meeting did not happen. They are working on getting one set up. Train rates are \$243.50 from Rockford to New Mexico, \$162 back. Presented Greyhound, but most said not to consider that way. Could not get airline rates yet; they said it was too early. It is \$30 for a round-trip bus ticket in NM. More work to do.

High Adventure (June 2007): (8/22) The Chisholm Trail in the Longhorn Council near Dallas, Texas was desired. First choice is week of June 25 (Sunday through Saturday). Deposit is \$50 per person. We must reserve our group size because they have various size boats. The scouts must be 13 years of age and have their first class by the date of the camp. Part of the reservation is reserving the boat. The largest boat will carry 15 people. Suggested to ask scouts next week to see who wants to go. The deposit will be non-refundable, including adults. Sandy will call people. The experience cost is \$285 per person, but does not include traveling expenses. The information was just put out, so we need to make a decision soon. (9/19) 6 boys and 6 adults are signed-up and have paid their deposit at this time. Sandy is going to go ahead and reserve a boat based on those numbers. Last week of June is our first choice, 3rd week is our second choice. Sandy received a video and it was suggested that we show it to the boys at the Webelos Open House. (10/10) \$1200 deposit was paid by Sandy. She signed-up for (2) 12-person boats. She has not heard confirmation about the dates. (11/28) We got the week we wanted, June 24 - 30. That is just the camp, not transportation days. We will need to take 2 days to get there and 2 days to get back. Policy allows kids in the car for 10 hours. Need to know how much to charge the adults. It's going to be approximately \$350 per person. [Troop 57 did this last year. They stopped in at a Boy Scout camp near Missouri and stayed for free which included food. MaryAnn is going to check with Troop 57.] Next payment is due February 13th on Family Night. We need to figure out how the points convert to dollars so boys will know how much more they need to pay. Bring up cost again in December. Check what the Whitewater Rafting cost were for High Adventure in the past. (12/18) Ed is working on transportation and accommodations. There's nothing else new to report. We still need to figure out cost for Adults. Leaving date is still unsure. Information will be ready for the January committee meeting. Notices need to be put out 2-weeks before family night. Ed received travel information from Troop 57 (they went there last year) – stayed at a Joplin, MO scout camp. It was 573 miles to the camp and 426 miles more to Dallas. The camp charged \$1.00 a night per person. They have showers and flush

toilets. They also opened up the pool for them. They were furnished platform tents. The next day they drove the rest of the way to the camp. Troop 57 was given comparable accommodations on their return trip. (1/23) Scouts need to test for BSA Swimmer; 1st Class. All adults must have Youth Protection certification. We're leaving on June 23 at 7:00 am. We're staying in Joplin, MO, then 6 more hours. Return trip on 6/30 and 7/1; staying in the same motel. Treat it like a backpacking trip. Take tents. Camp provides food, but wants us to bring our own cooking equipment. We have 2 boats reserved; 4 adults and 8 scouts per boat. Estimated cost is \$427 per person. We need to figure-out adult charge. (Breakdown - Camp \$310, lodging \$28, \$22 traveling food, and gas is \$67 per person.) Next payment is due Feb. 13th, with final payment due on May 23rd. Checking what we charged for the Whitewater Rafting trip. Motion we pay at least half. [The Whitewater rafting trip cost was \$550 for boys. The active adults cost was \$150, and the junior leaders were \$250.]

Summer Camp @ Canyon Camp (July 15-21, 2007): (8/22) A suggestion was made for the second week in July. (9/19) We are reserved! Poulisses and McCaffreys are already signed-up to go. (11/28) Need to know which adults are going. Greg and Tammy Poulisse, MaryAnn, possibly Dannette and then Sandy have plans to attend. We just need to know how much points are worth. Next payment is February 13th at Family Night. [Post-meeting note: The Courier has us posted as July 15-21.] (12/18) Terry changed it to have this payment and the High Adventure payment due at the same time, February 13, Family Night. Cost is \$185. The camp is July 15 – 21, not July 8th – 14th. (Sandy's Day camp is July 30th, 31st, August 2nd and 3rd.) (1/23) Deposit from boys is set at \$25. Motioned and seconded and approved. That would make the points worth \$160. This money can be used for either this camp or the High Adventure trip.

Philmont 2008: (11/28) Eric talked about Philmont. Bill has a string of dates requested. Eric has 2 dates in for the Crew. If we're offered, we must pay \$50 or we lose our reservation. Our Council has 4 crews reserved to arrive June 16th. Someone needs to get down to the Scout office to sign up tomorrow. It has already been announced in the Courier. We need to get a contingency plan. Sign-up ended Nov. 26; will not hear whether or not we got it until the middle of December. Terry will check tomorrow. [Post-meeting note: Phil McCrery is taking request for those four crews until January 12, then, he'll decide.] (12/18) We have a reservation for 2008, with a June 16th arrival date. 24 people can go (16 boys & 8 adults). Phil asked Terry to announce it at the pizza party tomorrow night that T-181 is going. We'll discuss it at Family Night in February. (1/23) We can only take 8 adults, but have 9 signed-up and paid. 13 scouts have signed-up. Lois was willing to drop-out, if needed. Bill is paying deposits for 14 (the minimum requirement). First payment is due in October 2007.

Miscellaneous Business

TRAINING:

Wood Badge: Aug. 24-26 and Sept. 21-23, 2007: (7/18) Now officially for August 2007. Is anyone planning on attending? (10/10) Ken, Greg and Phil are signing-up for the 2007 course. E-mail Ray Warren: WarrenRJ@aol.com to get more information; also 224/623-3965. Only room for 48, and he already has 29 potential participants. (11/28) Those interested need to get their applications in with their \$50 deposit submitted. Course will cost \$195. In the past the troop has picked up the cost. Are we going to do that? When you earn your beads you get your \$50 back. It was discussed that the troop pays it all. Paul motioned, Sandy seconded it. It was discussed that they got the training and should not have to wait to get their money. Craig will be getting his beads at Roundtable. MaryAnn suggested we should be there in uniform to support him. Craig will let us know the date it will be arranged. (12/18) Greg is still interested and trying to work it out with his boss, but doesn't know for sure yet. (His vacation is approved for Summer Camp.) He is hoping to sign-up and pay a deposit in January. Phil's application is filled-out but not turned-in. Ken is a possibility also. If someone cancels-out they should be responsible for the \$50 deposit. Ed said that he thought they should have to earn their beads to get their reimbursement since the boys have to. Terry agreed. Phil went around the table and asked people's opinions. We voted that candidates pay the \$50 deposit, and they will get a refund when they earn their beads. The motion was carried (with 2 descending votes) to change it back to this. (1/23) Phil's deposit and application is in. Greg is having problems scheduling time off. Ken's application and money is in. Life-to-Eagle Orientation at

Roundtable on February 8th. Craig's beads presentation will be then also. March Roundtable includes Youth Protection training. However, people can do it online. Merit Badge Counselor training March 8.

Leader Specific: April 25, is Troop Committee Training. May 2, 9, 16, is SM/ASM Specific Training. And May 19-20, is the Outdoor Skills Session.

Fast Start: Do it online, call Beth Ann, then let MaryAnn know that you did it.

Youth Protection: Do it online, call Beth Ann, then let MaryAnn know that you did it.

First Aid/CPR Certifications: (11/28) Several need to be done before Summer Camp. 6 to 7 need refresher classes in January 2007. Eric will check into doing it in the middle of January. He said class size should be limited to eight. (12/18) Eric will put it together first week in January. (1/23) Belvidere Fire Department charges \$40 each. They still teach the old style; breathing and compressions. They want 6 per class; they can add another instructor if there's more. It takes 6 hours; either 2-nights in one week, or one Saturday. We pick our own dates. (5 re-certifications needed and 3 new ones too.) Some scouts need it also. Recertification is \$25. The recertification is a shorter class. Eric is meeting with them on Thursday. He'll be checking to see if those who just expired can still get a recertification. Phil took a list of names. Eric will email to Phil and he will email everyone else. Try to do it in the next 2 weeks. Announce it to the scouts at next week's meeting.

Patrol Medallions: (8/22) Paul's wife is meeting with a sewing rep tomorrow to see if they can do it. We are not sure yet whether or not she will need to purchase another card. The patrols may need to be renamed in order for these cards to work. Phil suggested that they should check to see if we can download the information onto a card. Paul's wife will make samples when she has time. (9/19) We could not do the patrols that we have now. The boys will have to choose patrol names from what are available symbols. It will be at least a couple of weeks to get these ready. (10/10) Paul passed-around a sample of a patrol medallion. Phil is working with him to get new pictures available. (11/28) We will get samples of patrol medallions in a couple of weeks. (1/23) Samples are available.

Health Forms: (6/27) Lois wants to be in charge of it. (7/18) Lois needs to work on it. (8/22) Lois has gone through them all. We have some that do not have health forms filled out at all. There are also some whose information has expired. Lois will be calling people to get those and to get updates. Terry suggested a summary onto a spreadsheet. She has also made up a list of non-active adults. Duplicate books made up for small group outings. There are about 15 to 20 that we need forms fixed for. Lois wants to return the outdated forms back to the respective families. (9/19) Lois has spoken to people of those she needs information for. Mostly, she needs forms from the new Squirrels. (10/10) She still has quite a few new people who do not have a form on file. Lois is continuing to work on it. (11/28) Lois still needs some. New practice: Class 1 and 2 medical forms must be filled-out as soon as someone joins our troop. (12/18) Still need medical forms and/or doctors' forms from some new boys. Lois has talked to them, but they are not bringing them in. (1/23) Lois is still missing a few new ones. We'll be handing out Health Forms at Blue and Gold Banquets.

Garage: (9/19) Eric and Bill are the only ones on the sub-committee for a Scout garage. They want help with planning it. Terry volunteered because he would like to see it happen. We could have our own personal space. We could hang tents when we come back from campouts and not send them home with scouts. (10/10) A 24 x 36' garage was approved at Township's budget meeting last night. They will get the permit. We would like to start it next Spring. It will go on the fire department property off 42nd Street. Tim Nease works for R&D Thiel, his father works for Hines Lumber. We need to make it known that we want to build the garage and see if we get anyone showing interest in helping with materials and labor. Phil will send-out an email. We could mention it at Family Court of Honor too. (11/28) Eric and Bill are working on it. (12/18) Eric has all the specs; he will type them up and send them to Bill. (1/23) Bill is working on the layout.

Uniform Inspections: (11/28) *We need to have inspections more often at Troop meetings. Alexander needs to discuss this with the PLC.* (1/23) Inspections were done tonight. Thank-you Alexander.

Patrol Coaches: (11/28) *Eric suggested meeting with them weekly. Ed and Sandy will reorganize them.* (12/18) *Ed and Sandy will be having a meeting with the patrol coaches.* (1/23) Not done yet.

Food & Clothing Drive: (12/18) *Sandy and Belinda will be helping to make sure a chosen family has clothing and a Christmas. They will be shopping and getting the gifts to this grandmother, who just acquired 3 kids, without clothing. It was suggested that a collection be taken at the meeting tomorrow. John Schwartz will also be sponsoring it through his work. The money can go through the Troop (for tax purposes). Receipts will need to be submitted. Lois says that her school offers support also.* (1/23) Over and done. Sandy received a letter from our recipients. Sandy read it. An article is in the *Courier*, which was mailed-out today. Belinda appreciates the financial support for her mess-up.

DVD player: (12/18) *Would we like to donate a DVD player to this church? Yes. (Troop 181 can use it for movie nights and Youth Protection videos.) Greg will buy one after the holidays and turn-in the receipt.* (1/23) It was purchased, but Greg will return it, and repurchase it, so we can get it Tax Exempt. Sandy is getting Greg a copy of the Tax Exempt letter.

New Business 1/23/2007

Continuous Fire (Feb. 3-10): Are we going? Not as a Troop meeting because we are swimming on February 6. If boys want to earn the patch, they must tend the Fire for a least one hour during the week. Scouts are encouraged to visit the Fire on the "buddy system." Troop and Crew 181 are manning the Fire on Wednesday, February 7, from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm.

First Aid Meet (Mar. 17): It will be March 17th this year. No place is secured yet.

Show and Do (Mar): Terry has not heard anything regarding it. It will be at Camp Lowden if it occurs.

March Outing: No weekends available. Sandy was concerned about not having an outing for the new boys. However, the 1st Aid Meet is available. Eric suggested that something be done within each patrol.

Nominations for District Awards (Apr. 1): Unit Spirit Award – nominee does not have to be a registered scouter. (S)he will automatically receive it. Outstanding Awards – Leaders and Committee Members must be registered and nominees go up against the whole district. We can nominate for 2 awards. District Award of Merit – 4-5 per District are awarded. Nominations will be taken next month. Phil asked MaryAnn to get a list of who, in our Troop, have it already.

Rockford Air Show (Jun.): is the first weekend in June. Sandy is checking to see if we are interested in working a booth to make money for the Troop. Workers get free entrance into the Air Show also. We suggested that Sandy submit the letter on behalf of the Troop and get more information. The money will go towards Summer Camps.

Tree Stands: Eric bought 60 for next year; they are stored at Jon Paul's. They cost \$1.00 each.

Recharter: Right now, 49 are on our roster, but 41 will be re-registered. 8 are being dropped. 3 adults will be dropped also; leaving 38 adults (7 of which are paid by other units). Boys' Life is going into every home (34 subscriptions). Total cost is \$1148. Two and more people are being carried on the roster, but they're paying their own way.

Scout Accounts: Phil proposed that money from scout accounts be passed on to college expenses (another troop does this), instead of the Troop just absorbing it, assuming they stay involved with the Troop. There are 7 scouts, 17-years-old , who will age-out by December. There is only about \$300 in that category. This is a suggestion to get the older boys to continue to earn money for the Troop. If they go away, we carry their registration for 4-years if they are Eagle Scouts and go to college or serve in the military. Once they are age 21 they no longer can have a Scout Account. We need to decide if we want to grandfather it or start now. We decided to table this for next month's meeting.

Adjourned at 9:48 pm