



TROOP 181 BSA COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 18, 2007

Present: Sandy Schwartz, Belinda Cowdrey, Eric Schmidt, Terry Nichols, Dannette Holifield, Lois & Ed Blondin, Greg Poulisse, Craig Louthain, Tracy Mattison, Adriana Lopez, Tim & Lori Mason, Al Fredrickson, Paul McCaffrey, and Derek Dwyer.

Meeting started at 8:20PM

Treasurer's Report: Not available – Greg thought this meeting was supposed to be next week.

Next Committee Meeting: The next committee meeting is moved to October 16th (we will not be in the building on the 23rd or 30th, and the 9th is too soon).

Past Events

Electronics Law Merit Badge (July 24 & 31): (5/22) *Jim will look at becoming a merit badge counselor. Sandy suggested changing it. Several of our Scouts already have this one. Derek should poll the PLC for other merit badge ideas. Several were suggested here. (6/26) Several scouts earned electronics merit badge at the Learn and Earn. The PLC needs to look at other ones: Citizenship in Community, photography, painting, and graphic arts. (7/24) Law merit badge was added to the list. Several calls were made from Canyon Camp by adults. There is no Painting merit badge counselor in our District. Sandy recruited her brother, attorney Jeff Spears (we'll get him qualified as a counselor). John Vermie found attorney Jeff Heckinger, an official merit badge counselor, to come. They spoke in different areas of the room. Homework will be required – Sandy will email it to everyone. (8/28) It went well. No one has completed it. The homework part still needs to be done. Sandy will remind the boys what is still needed. (9/18) Not done yet. Sandy still plans to remind the boys with a notice.*

Spud Hut (Aug. 7–12): (6/26) *On June 24th there were forty shifts open. Steve DeVlieger will be at our July 3rd meeting to offer our scout/parent teams the opportunity to work shifts. (7/24) Four scouts and one crew member is signed-up with their parents so far. (8/28) We're waiting for the check (about 2-months). (9/18) Waiting.*

Bike Hike (Sept. 8-9): (6/26) *Eric does not deny organizing it. Look at shorter one for younger scouts. (7/24) We're going to the Elroy-Sparta Trail. We're going Sat. morning and returning Sun. afternoon. (8/28) Bike inspection is on the calendar for next Tuesday. We have a campout site chosen -- Wilton city park (they do not take reservations: cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth). Eric will not be able to go. He needs someone else to pull both trailers. Trail cost is \$4 for those over 16. (9/18) Only 14 people went. The trail cost is \$4 for 16 and over. They will be charging a \$5 surcharge if you don't pay in advance.*

Religious Retreat "God in My Life" (Sept. 14-16): (7/24) *MaryAnn says nothing conflicts with it this year. She hopes that more than one scout from our troop will attend. (8/28) Belinda and Bradley are going, but have to leave Saturday night. (9/18) Belinda and Bradley were pleased and want to go again.*

WEBELOS Open House (Sept. 25): (6/26) Sandy is working on the plans. (7/24) It's in progress. (8/28) Sandy needs people who have contacts from their old Packs. [600 – Tammy, 121 – Phil, 429 – Sandy, 400 – Greg, 126 – Phil, 141 – Phil] Ed, Sandy and Brian Murphy worked on the program. They will need volunteers to run the various areas. Lois will work on the refreshments. Ed will work on the food. Eric will get the trailer there. Phil volunteered for whatever she needs. It starts a half hour earlier than normal. (9/18) Sandy has most of the helpers organized.

Wreath Sales (begins Sept. 25): (6/26) Tracy is considering it with Adriana; Paul will help coordinate. (Post-meeting note: Adriana agreed to help out.) (7/24) Paul has transferred the information. Adriana has the paperwork and order forms. (8/28) There's no one here to talk about it. (9/18) Adriana and Tracy have everything under control. Belinda will research how many wreaths we need to order for the tree lot based on notes from last year's meeting minutes. She'll give the information to Adriana and Tracy. Wreath sales brochures will be handed-out next week. We need to offer WEBELOS attending a chance to sell wreaths for us and start building-up their scout accounts. Paul said this was offered last year and several took advantage of it.

Troop JLT (Sept. 29): (7/24) Terry will organize it. (8/28) Terry does not have a spot for it yet. He needs at least 1-adult all day to help. Craig is checking to see if he would be available. Phil may be able to help out also. Phil suggested that our NAYLE boys help also. (9/18) Notices distributed tonight. Craig will work it. Terry has the agenda. It will be at Russell Woods.

Future Events

WEBELOS Overnight (October 6-7): (5/22) Sandy needs to reserve MacQueen F.P. for this year. Sandy would appreciate help because she will have her Webelos Den there. Our scouts will staff it by invitation only. (6/26) Sandy is working on the reservation. (7/24) Sandy still needs to call Justine. October 6th and 7th also. (8/28) It will be at McQueen F.P. Phil will be coming. The troop will not be going in the night before. This is staffed by invitation only. Alex is available also. Sandy is still inviting boys to help. She's trying to get a mix of older and younger scouts.

Popcorn Blitz (October 6-9): (9/18) Jessica went to Roundtable and picked-up her items from Ida. She has a good handle on what's she doing.

007 Shoot-Out (Oct. 12-14): (7/24) We hope to have some adults on staff; Ken and Terry are interested. Phil did not decline to staff it. (8/28) Name changed from Shoot-O-Ree. Open enrollment - it is not limited. \$15.00. Run until Sunday afternoon. Offering Rifle Merit Badge and Shotgun Merit Badge. Terry is working on paperwork. Our registration will be starting in mid-September. It is at Canyon Camp. A BB-gun range was added to the camp this Fall at the OA Conclave. (9/18) Terry will put together an information sheet when the information is all received. People must sign-up by October 2; to register at the scout office by October 5. (We may float payment (only) for a week, based on the late notice.)

Trail of Screams (Oct. 23): (8/28) Troop Meeting on October 30 was Halloween – The Trail of Screams at Camp Winnebago was changed to October 23rd. Frightline: 815/965-6772 (9/18) Terry made arrangements for us to pay \$6 again this year. We paid \$7 a few years ago.

Philmont (June 16, 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. (2/27) Bill is not here, so nothing new. (3/27) Nothing new. (4/17) Is it full? Terry said, "no." Bill paid for the 7-minimum per trek, although 22 of our members have paid a deposit. We have room for 3 more Scouts. (5/22) We have room for 24. The next payment is due in October; approximately \$200. Payment after that is due in March 2008. (1 too many adults, and 2 too few scouts are signed-up.) They allow 2-4 adults per crew. Scouts are considered youth up to age 21, but must be 14+ and First Class. Health restrictions are enforced once you get there, even if your doctor permits you to go. Traveling will be by train. (6/26) Nothing new. (7/24) Nothing new. (8/28) Phil went camping this past weekend to prepare for Philmont. The Hoxies still want to go. Philmont is like Venturing -- youth age goes up to 20 to be considered a Scout. Still room for 1 more Scout and we are over 1 adult. NYLT is a week before Philmont. The group is leaving on June 15th if going by train. Need to be there by the 16th. Next payment is due in October, which is \$200. Some are wanting to do a fund-raiser to help pay their expenses. When are we going to open it to people outside of the troop? It was suggested that we allow the Blondin's nephew to pay towards it and refund it if the position gets filled. (9/18) 14 scouts are signed-up; and 8 adults (Mr. Schmidt withdrew). We need 2 more scouts. The first payment will be due October 16.

Next Year's summer camps: (7/24) Philmont requires a two-week adult commitment (8-adults) – may affect adult availability at the basic summer camp. Our local camp (Camp Lowden) would not have offerings for our older scouts (but many of them will go to Philmont). Some scouts have suggested Ransburg again. We need to ensure we consider our offerings to all scouts to balance the concerns. (8/28) Sandy suggests we offer information to boys, let them research the camps they would like to attend, and present it to the full troop of boys for a decision. We need to put that in the calendar. Need a commitment by January. (9/18) Do it.

On The Waterfront (2008): (8/28) We were offered an On the Waterfront ticket booth this year. Lois couldn't find enough people to support it in 2007. She said that we could put our name in for adults to sell tickets and we would get \$10/hour. It is a fundraising opportunity, if we want to put our name in for 2008. Do we want to put our name in to staff it for the entire weekend? The vote was "yes." (9/18) Lois will submit our troop for a place next year.

High adventure camp 2009: (7/24) Paul is proposing a camp in Maine – details to follow. (8/28) Caleb wants to go to Sea Base in 2009. (9/18) Paul says the trip goes down a river and ends up in the ocean, whale watching. Paul will check on enrollment deadlines.

Training:

Youth Protection: Do it online then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Training is good for two years. Make sure **you** do it through the **council website** and not the national one!

<http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=YouthProtect>

Fast Start: Do it online then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Make sure **you** do it through the **council website** and not the national one!

<http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=FastStart>

New Leader Essentials: 9/12 or 9/29 or 10/18 (details in the *Courier*)

Leader Specific: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/20-21 (details in the *Courier*) (9/18) The first date is highly recommended!!! The whole course is the best option! They are at Calvary Baptist Church on Linden Road. It starts at 6:30 pm, for 2.5 hours. Go to whatever sessions you can; you can catch-up next Spring or next Fall.

First Aid/CPR Certifications: None planned at this time, except Wilderness 1st Aid (see below) All Adults that wanted it got it.

Wood Badge Training (Aug. 24-26 & Sept. 21-23): *Phil and Ken are signed up and paid. Nothing new.... (8/28) Phil was at it last weekend and he is going again in a couple of weeks. Phil will talk to Ray Warren to try to get Ken's payment credited to our account. Phil needs to work on his "ticket." He will take suggestions.*

Miscellaneous Business

Health Forms: *(5/22) Lois is still missing some for Summer Camp. Parent signatures are required every year, while physician signatures are required every 3 years on the Scout forms. (6/26) Lois did not respond to requests to give any information on how it was going. (7/24) They're under control and on the bookshelf! (8/28) Phil wants Lois to check and make sure that all registered adults have a health form on file. Lois requested a list of all registered adults. Terry will make sure she gets the list. We will get specific medical forms for Philmont in January; the standard ones are not acceptable. (9/18) In process.*

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. (2/27) Everything was passed-on to Bill. (3/27) No update. (4/17) Bill is working on the permit this week. (5/22) No permit yet. Bill sent a letter to Chief Wilt. The firemen are talking about it, though Bill was out-of-town. Once the permit is issued we have 1-year to complete the building. The bulldozer is lined-up; we still need to get materials. (7/24) Nothing new ... (8/28) On Tuesday, at 4:00 pm, Bill and Eric are going to meet with the Chief Wilt to try and get it approved. Tim Mason offered to help us get a roof. (9/18) We may get an existing building: 30x40'. We would be able to use 30x30 feet of it with the fire department using a fence to separate their section. Eric says we used it before, several years ago. It needs to be cleaned-out, and we need to do some minor remodeling. It looks promising.*

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. (2/27) There's still nothing being done. The earliest will be in May. (3/27) Sandy will call Ed and get it on the calendar. (4/17) A new parent asked who, but the new patrol does not have a patrol coach yet. (5/22) We have a new patrol coach – Tim Mason. We nominated Belinda to train this position UNDER PROTEST! She accepted. (7/24) Nothing new ... (8/28) Belinda is working with the Mason's and the Pluto Patrol. (9/18) We have patrol coaches on paper, but we need to revisit their usefulness.*

Leadership Medallions: *(5/22) Dannette will take care of that. She and Terry will work on getting the new leaders their correct patches. We should be able to get this done within the next two weeks. (6/26) Still needs work. (7/24) Dannette delivered them and there's no more requested. Phil did not decline working on getting the patrol medallions. (8/28) Belinda asked whether or not we could just paint on blank patches. Phil suggested if our patrols want to change their name, we work off medallions that are available. Necchi will make them for about \$4 or \$5 per patch. Dannette will do some research in to it. (9/18) Belinda discussed getting the patches made locally. She has been working with a lady in Rockford and had a sample of the Milky Way Patrol patch. Also, she brought in samples of graphics that could be used for other patrols, but was not real sure what should be done for Leadership Corps. The patch made for the Milky Way Patrol will cost \$5, plus the cost of the blank patch from the scout office. We were unable to find a design from her book, but we were able to buy a design off the internet for \$8. If we create our own design, it would cost \$45-50 to digitize it. The price of the patch is determined by the stitch count. Each patch will cost \$5-8, plus the*

blank. Belinda volunteered to organize it. It was voted, and approved. What about the cost; who is paying for them? The troop is paying for them; voted on and approved.

Tree sales permit: (8/28) *It needs to be ordered from the Department of Agriculture? Last year's was dated August, so Terry said we should do it now. Phil suggested talking to Steve Fedor. (9/18) Greg ordered it.*

Merit Badge List: (8/28) *Eric will need to send his (Sherry's) Merit Badge list to Phil so he can put it on the website. (9/18) Belinda has a copy of the list from the District website. It was suggested that she email it to Phil to be posted on the Troop website.*

Christmas Trees: (8/28) *Terry got a call from Harold Kingma. He said there was no change in price this year, so Terry Okay'd it. Terry suggested we buy more firs. Also, he suggested we consider 420 total. How many Frasers do we want? How many total trees do we want? A suggestion to keep the total at 400 but increase Fraser firs to 100 and drop pines to 300. Someone suggested we take preorders from our Troop families to see how many people would like to buy Fraser firs. Another suggestion includes: if you do not preorder, you pay the regular price off the lot. Someone suggested 100 for lot, plus preorder ours. The order needs to be placed soon. Eric suggested we have some type of Festival (carnival) to bring more people in. Eric mentioned that we may have sold more last year because of the timely heavy snow; and Greg added, people who normally would have cut them down didn't last year. Someone suggested selling hot chocolate. The carnival was voted down. Someone suggested we hand-out flyers to people when taking wreath orders. A motion for 120 Fraser firs passed. A motion to raise the total amount of trees to 420 was proposed, ordering only 300 scotch pines. (We did not have as many tree thefts this past year. Trees sold-out too soon and the snow was too deep.) Someone suggested shifts include new scouts mixed with experienced scouts. New Scout families should only sign-up for weekend shifts until after they have worked with an experienced scout family. Week night shifts should be staffed by families who have capabilities of lifting trees onto vehicles and scouts with knot tying abilities. Someone suggested that we work on knot tying skills during the Tree Selling Techniques meeting on Nov. 6, -- show how to tie trees onto cars. (9/18) Terry called to order the trees. Confirmation was received already. Greg will send a 20%, \$1253 deposit. Do we need to order more netting and roping? Terry will take care of the netting, tags, and removal bags; based on notes from last year's committee minutes. Tree selling techniques is scheduled for a future meeting. The tree lot schedule will be handled by Ed and it will be available at the next Family Night.*

New Business

Swimming: We want to keep the same times and dates as last year.

Ice Hogs game (Nov. 2): Need to add Ice Hog game to Troop Calendar. Terry stated that he already did. A poll was taken at the Troop meeting tonight and there were several who showed interest. That game is Friday, November 2nd (the season opener - Scout Night). Tammy Shane will be coordinating this.

Hooded Sweatshirts: Do we need to get this order placed? Committee said, "Yes." Belinda will organize this. Dannette suggested that we check to see if there are better quality ones. Caleb has been wearing the sample and it is fading in areas after being washed so much.

Personal Management Merit Badge: Paul will be getting this Merit Badge organized at his home. He needs to have at least 5 participants. It will be offered on Saturday or Sunday mornings, possibly every 2-weeks. After that, he will be working on Citizenship Merit Badges.

Troop Elections: Terry discussed the new positions from tonight's elections. Several positions are pending. ASPL needs to be discussed with the SPL, and other positions will be discussed with the ASPL.

Merit Badge programs at Burpee Museum: Belinda picked-up a brochure from the Scout Office from Burpee Museum. They offer Merit Badge programs for Boy Scouts. The bad side is some of them

conflict with Troop activities already planned. Terry suggested calling them to see if they would be willing to do another date if we had a group. Belinda will check into that. Terry suggested that we poll the troop with a couple of the options to see if anyone was interested in any of them.

Community Derby: Our District is holding a community derby on October 28th. They would like to have some scouts help out with fingerprinting. It is a fundraising event for the District. If you have questions, ask Craig.

Adjourned at 9:07 pm