



# TROOP 181 BSA COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 26, 2008

**Present:** Belinda Cowdrey (acting Chairman), Lori Mason (acting Secretary), Tim Mason, Craig Louthain, Greg Poulisse, Adrianna Lopez, Lois Blondin, Ed Blondin, Ryan Lambert, Sandy Schwartz, Bradley Cowdrey, Terry Nichols, Eric Schmidt, Bill LeFevre

Meeting started at 8:05 PM

**Treasurer's Report:** Greg gave a verbal report but nothing was on paper.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Next one was scheduled for September 23rd. It is changed to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Past Events

**Wood Badge Training C-23-07 (Aug. 24-26 & Sept. 21-23, 2007):** (07/22) State adopt-a-highway (08/26) has moved to County Adopt-A-Road. We're looking at dates in Sept. (maybe part of Troop JLT), and again in Nov. (maybe part of Tree Lot Set-up). Phil is hoping to finish his ticket, sometime in November.

**Philmont (June 16-28, 2008):** (07/22) They made it there and back with everybody. They had a good time. A few people still owe money, which Ed will be following-up on. Ed and Eric will give reports for newsletter. It cost \$20 more to fly back, but definitely worth it. (08/26) Articles were submitted and put in to the newsletter that came out in August.

**Day Camp (July 28 – Aug. 1):** (06/10) Sandy will need medical forms filled-out for those working at Alpine Day Camp. (07/22) Still looking for a nurse or medical professional. (08/26) Day camp was good! The Jr. staff that was there made those *on the fence* want to go. Our troop rocks! Many compliments on how well it's run. 15 people from our unit came and helped-out. Terry said that Andy Murray was very impressed with how it was run by Sandy. He loved Sandy/Derek's song.

**Festa Italiana (August 1-4):** (07/22) Still need a few more people for evening shifts. Ed will be contacting people to fill the rest of them. Festa starts Thursday, July 31st this year. Ed will get the information to Lori for the website. (08/26) The money is in the bank, \$2400. We want more help in the mornings next year; those time periods were very thin. Only half of our families participated in the work this year. Need to push involvement more for next year.

**Family Night (Aug. 5):** Lois asked Belinda to organize Family Night set-up. Lois will be gone. We need to get a place for our picnic. We need skits to be done also; 2 to 4 patrols. Suggested that the Loggers do one also. Talking about starting at 5:30, but that would be hard for most. Suggest we have it here at the church.

*Terry will check with the church to see if we can still use the church. Everybody should provide enough food for their families and their own table service. It's suggested we supply the drinks; we need to purchase ice.*

(08/26) Potluck dinner was successful, but only 58 people attended, which is low (scouts, parents, siblings all in this count). We have had between 70 and 80 in the past. The skits were very nice. We talked about a different set-up for next time. It was hard to hear with the A/C fan on. A microphone was suggested.

**Alpine Slide (Aug 9-10):** *We changed the date since it conflicted with the OA Fall Conclave. It will be August 9th and 10th. Nothing has been done yet. Sandy will call to try to get it confirmed. Greg and Ryan are both going to the OA Conclave. Terry will not be able to attend either event this year. We will need someone to help mark the boys if they are to be called-out again. (08/26) Greg and Belinda were the only adults going. We had 6 boys interested and there were several other conflicts, so it was cancelled.*

**Planning meeting (Aug. 11)** *Sandy will come up with dates. Would prefer not to have it on a troop meeting night. She will send out an email with new dates. (08/26) It was held on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at the church building. We had 10 Scouts and 6 Adults who participated. Couple dates still need to be filled. Sandy suggested the adults help fill them in. Sandy will be meeting with Terry to get final approval. Nothing really new ... familiar things. Mostly younger scouts attended. Kids were kind of silly that night. Broomball was put on the calendar again. This surprised Terry as only 11 scouts showed up. Park district provided ball and helmets. Most brooms broke. Broomball needs to be advertised better.*

**Website:** Belinda mentioned that our website is not being updated. We need to make sure we get the announcements on it. Tim mentioned that he is looking at updating the website for one of his ticket items for Wood Badge. All thought that would be a good idea. Lori mentioned that several links are dead and need to be removed.

**Pinewood Prep (Aug.19) & Race (Aug. 26):** *(Are we buying them for the boys? We need to borrow a track. Pack 121 will let us borrow there's, per Phil. Open class, no rules; except it has to fit the track. Adults can race also. It's suggested we buy them to hand-out on August 5th. Scout cars provided, siblings and adults will purchase them. Jennifer will call and pick them up. We have 42 Scouts. Suggested we buy 50 and can return what we don't use. Mark Rauschanberger may have extras. (08/26) Could have used more tools at preparation night (turnout was kind of small as well). Tables were taken outside to work on the cars. Thank-you's go to John Schwartz and John Lindstrom for bringing tools. Without those, no work would have been done. The boys really liked racing. We had about 18 racers. The leftover cars will need to be returned. Suggested we let Jennifer know since she is the one who purchased them and has the receipt.*

It was mentioned that our attendance has been very low lately. Terry suggested that phone calls with personal invitations would be a good idea.

### **Future Events**

**Bike Hike (Sep. 6):** *It will not be an overnight. Jane Addams and Badger Trails. We will be starting North and come South. Eric is organizing it. He needs drop-off and pick-up drivers. He is still working-out details, but are ending in Freeport. (08/26) We still need drivers. Belinda offered and Tim can drive, if needed, however, he was planning on riding on a bike also. Eric mentioned the trip again at closing and will know more next week about how many will be going and how many drivers he will need. Tim mentioned that his truck is still not working properly and did not know if he would be able to pull a*

trailer; it is getting checked-out on Friday. Eric will get information to Terry so that he can make up an announcement for the website. He will get it to Lori as soon as possible. We will be charging at least \$4 for it. We need to carry lunches.

**Hill Party (Monday, Sep. 8):** The troop meeting on the second week of September will be changed to Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the field behind MC Sports, which will be where the new Scout office will be in two years. It is called Swanson Hill and the event will be called the "Hill Party". Our troop was asked to show what a troop meeting was like so we are going to hold our meeting then instead of Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. We will work on lashings and some other items. Scouts and Scouters need to come in Class A uniform, with scout pants if you have them. We will need to have the trailer pulled to the site. We will be showing it off and pulling out tents to demonstrate how to set them up. It was suggested that we have a gateway and Dutch oven cooking. It was also suggested that we could do cobblers; however, we would probably need about 4 to 5 as up to 100 visitors are expected.

**Religious Retreat: (September 12-14):** (06/10) MaryAnn mentioned that it was the same weekend as our Bike Hike. The retreat had to change dates, which was out of their control. There is a big push to try and get more boys to attend. Attendance has been weak lately. This year they will be giving out attendance prizes. Also, they plan to open the rifle range during free time after activities but before church services. It's suggested changing the Bike Hike to another weekend so we do not have a conflict within our Troop. The calendar shows the Bike Hike is September 6<sup>th</sup>, with the 13-14<sup>th</sup> as a possibility. (07/22) Bobbie and Adriana, MaryAnn and Kevin, Jared, and Bradley are possibilities. If boys need to finish rifle merit badge they can do it there. (08/26) It was mentioned at closing, but MaryAnn was not here tonight.

**Troop elections (Sep. 16):** Troop elections, which were scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>, will be changed to September 16<sup>th</sup>, with Rock Tumbling being taken out of the schedule. Terry did not feel that would be a viable meeting option anyways, given the nature of rock tumbling.

**Sporting Clays (Sept. 20):** (07/22) Nothing to report. Only for adults to help as Safety Guides. Jennifer would like to know the dates and possibly help with it. (08/26) No real need to bring it up. Terry, Jennifer and Wally will be working at it.

**WEBELOS Open House (Sep. 23):** (07/22) Sandy will talk to Bill about getting the date approved. He will check into it. (08/26) Bill said that we have permission to use the Blackhawk station. Sandy needs help planning it and will work with people during our meetings.

**Wreath Sales (Sep. 23):** (07/22) Do we have someone to coordinate it? It's recommended that we check with Adriana and Tracy to see if they would be willing to do it again. (08/26) Adriana and Tracy agreed to run this again. Initial information was given out at the Family Night. Adriana just received the packet and still needs to figure the prices. Terry would like to look over the information.

**Troop JLT (Sep. 27):** (07/22) Terry has not done anything yet. (08/26) Terry asked if anyone wanted to help. Belinda and Ryan volunteered. Tim & Craig might be a "yes."

**Camp-Boo-Ree (Oct. 10-12):** Terry brought it up tonight at the troop meeting. We have to have reservations in a month ahead of time.

**WEBELOS Overnighter (Oct. 18-19):** (07/22) We have a weekend at McCormick on October 18-19. Sandy would like to put out a flyer and include the Open House, Overnighter, and Swim Nights. It's suggested

we contact Jefferson H.S. now for next year. Belinda will start that and Phil will check with Rockford College. (08/26) Sandy will be doing a flyer.

**Swimming (2009):** Belinda has contacted Jefferson and spoke to the Athletic Director. We should be able to use the pool this year all during our normal meeting times. (Belvidere HS is going to use Harlem's pool instead.) The request has been submitted to the School Board. We should be getting the approval letter and contract within the next week.

Post meeting note: Belinda received a phone call from the Assistant Principal on Wednesday telling us that the Administrator denied our request due to conflicts with the locker rooms. Rockford college is still available for Sundays.

**High adventure camp (2009):** (5/20) Paul brought the information on High Adventure Camps in Maine. The Boy Scout High Adventure one has 3 levels of Kayaking. You get to pick your own trek anywhere from calm waters to whitewater trails. The cost is about \$900 without travel fee. This covers everything they need. The duration of the trip is 6-days minimum, up to 8-days. If both boys and girls will be going we would need one adult of each sex to attend. The crew size should be 6 to 8. Maine High Adventure is the name. Deposit would be due by March 1<sup>st</sup> for reservation. Balance would be due upon arrival. The other ones he has are not Boy Scout run, but are private outfitters and the costs are similar. Ed suggests put options to boys and let them choose. Paul gave Belinda the brochure on it. (6/10) Tabling until it can be presented to the boys and they chose one. (07/22) Still tabled. (08/26) We talked a little about Sea Base, also about canoeing. Sandy suggested putting a person in charge of taking ideas. Sandy said she will do it. Ed will announce it at next meeting. Hopefully, there will be some planning at the September meeting.

**National Scout Jamboree (2010)** – *It's something for us to consider!* (08/26) The internet *Courier* gives the following information that is being passed around. Greg mentioned that he picked-up some brochures at summer camp and they were back with our paperwork in the back room. We discussed it and there was a suggestion that we could possibly just go as visitors. Nothing was decided, just discussed. Terry said he thought this was the last time that it would be in Virginia.

### **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 **District 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 **District website** and not the national one!

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

**New Leader Essentials:** The next one is scheduled on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at Poplar Grove United Methodist Church located at 105 E. Grove St. in Poplar Grove. Another one is scheduled as part of the Cub Scout Fun Day on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church located at 7424 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Loves Park. Terry mentioned that it would also be offered at September and October's Roundtables. He suggested to Ryan that he take this training as well as the Leader Specific. Ryan said he would not be able to at this time as he has a class on Wednesday nights.

### **Leader Specific:**

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

The next ones are scheduled as follows: Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Troop Committee Training.  
Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster training  
Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scout Outdoor Skills training

**Hazardous Weather Training:** Do it online, then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Make sure **you** do it through the **District website** and not the national website.

**Wood Badge For the 21st Century C-25-08 (Aug. 22-24 and Sep. 19-21, 2008):** (5/20) Tim is all set to go. Belinda signed-up and paid today. (6/10) Nothing new to report. (07/22) Ideas for tickets are; make up schedules for Roundtable, see MaryAnn. Sandy said you can volunteer at Day Camp also. (08/26) Belinda and Tim attended their first session this last weekend. Sandy is on staff as a Troop Guide.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

**Rank Board:** (07/22) Still, no progress. Terry will supply Eric with names and dates to get new plates made. (08/26) Nothing new to report.

**CPR Classes:** (5/20) Some people still need CPR training. Jim can do it at any Troop Meetings. It can also be done for 1 to 2 people. The card is \$5.00. Jim has the mannequin and will make this available. His course is good for one year. Paul and MaryAnn still need to get recertified. Sandy does also, but will be taking it during summer camp. (6/10) Nothing new. Jim was not here tonight. (08/26) Nothing new to report.

**New Uniforms:** (06/10) MaryAnn mentioned that National will be changing the uniforms in preparation for the 100 years of scouting. They are bringing out new fabrics and options on the clothing. Also, eplets will be green instead of red, and the numbers will now be in green stitching on tan. Locally, our store will carry the red until they run out of stock. The old uniforms will still be acceptable, but all troops are being asked to change. A decision will need to be made as to what we want to do before the next group of boys come in. Belinda was in St. Louis last week and received a brochure showing the new uniforms. MaryAnn said she would be willing to make green eplets for all the boys providing she can find the proper color material; we won't need to buy them. (08/26) When are we going to change over to the green numbers and epaulets? Terry says there is no hurry to change over as we have up to two years to comply. Sandy mentioned that the new Scout's family questioned as to what he should get and Sandy told him to get the new stuff. It was also mentioned that we need to come up with something before our new Scouts come in next spring. Most felt that we should change our numbers and epaulets over soon but changing uniform clothing would be a personal choice. The new stuff is at the Scout office now. Belinda is going to see if her 'connection' can help us out with the patches. Terry felt she was expensive (the patch-maker, not Belinda). Terry mentioned another seller to check. We used ITL in the past, ordered 300 to get a price break. Belinda needs to get a patch from the Scout store so we can color-match it.

**Copier charges:** (06/10) Terry said we received a new bill from the church for \$22.48 for copies made during the month of May. Terry will check into the previous months. We received a yearly bill back in October 2007. (07/22) We owe money. Terry inquired yesterday. We need to pay it and leave a check on her desk. It comes out to \$53.81 for the last 5-months. (08/26) We received a new one already. Greg paid it tonight for two months. We decided to accumulate them and pay every three months.

**Insurance:** (06/10) Terry received the new bill for our insurance from HSR. Our current policy expires 7/31/08. (07/22) Accident insurance is due end of month. Greg will write a check tonight. (08/26) It was paid and Terry received the confirmation.

**Health Forms:** (07/22) *The forms need to be reconsolidated. Several forms are scattered throughout various homes.* (08/26) Lois has been gone, but is hoping “yes.” Sandy says they are all back.

**Historian:** (07/22) *Tim mentioned that Joseph has been working on making a slide show to be made available during family nights. Jennifer will donate a 5 x 7 digital frame for our Troop to use. He will need memory sticks. We can keep them for use on other events. We can make a disc that can be played on TV too.* (08/26) Joseph had a presentation at the Family Night. It went well. Pictures were projected onto the wall. It would be nice to continue the practice. We did not receive a frame from Jennifer; most liked it on the wall and thought the frame would be too small.

### **New Business**

**Uniform Closet:** I would like the notes to reflect that Al Fredrickson brought in some Class A shirts that he picked-up at the Guilford Booster Club sale. He brought 2 short sleeves and 1 boy’s size small. Terry thought that we should save them to use for campouts as needed instead of giving them away.

**Equipment given out last week:** Sleeping bags, backpacks, and thermal sleeping pad. One tent is going to the scout trailer, another to be given away (it doesn’t have a fly, so it cannot be used for the troop). There are still items left such as a double sleeping bag and a sleeping pad, as well as miscellaneous items. Terry suggested that we not get rid of all of it and save it to offer to the new Scouts coming in next Spring.

**A garage at the fire station:** Building permit! Contractor! And groundbreaking this week!!

**Trees:** Terry got a call from Dan McClusky, who has a tree farm up in Northern Wisconsin. He is trying to sell us trees. Prices are very high. He is charging \$16 for 6-8’ Scotch pines; we paid \$10.00 for the same from our supplier. Terry told him “no.” Terry would like to compare our wreath prices to his wreath prices. Adriana will show him the packet she received. Terry heard that Cherry Vale Mall wants a tree retailer at the Mall this year. Terry called the assistant manager about us possibly doing it and is awaiting a call back. Competition could be a problem this year. Cherry Valley will be selling trees in town this year at the local nursery. Terry also got a call from Harold Kingma Tree Farm and he is going out of business for wholesale. Kingman gave Terry the name and number of another vendor, however, when he called the number it was an invalid number. Terry called Harold back and is waiting for another person to contact. We are officially looking for a tree grower.

Adjourned 9:18 p.m.