



# TROOP 181 BSA COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 30, 2008

**Present:** Phil Reece (acting committee chair), Belinda Cowdrey, Steve Fedor, Adriana Lopez, MaryAnn Bushaw, Greg Poulisse, Brian Murphy, Ed & Lois Blondin, Sandy Schwartz, Ryan Lambert, Terry Nichols, and Paul & Cecila Dandra visiting.

Meeting started at 8:07 PM

**Treasurer's Report:** Greg handed-out his report and verbalized it.

**Next Committee Meeting:** October 21<sup>st</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. (09/30) JLT did first cleanup. Phil is hoping to complete them end of November or early December.

## 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. (09/30) 6 adults and 13 scouts went; it was a flat trail. 2 flat tires both repaired on the trail. We need to work on practice rides a few times ahead and make trips shorter.

**Hill Party (Monday, Sep. 8):** (08/26) 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. (09/30) A lot of compliments on our boys. They did a lashing gateway, made cobbles and served the guests. We had 14 Scouts attend. A Pack, Girl Scouts, Troop 123 and a Brownie troop also served the cause.

**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. (09/30) 3 scouts and 5 adults attended. They had a good time; it was just very soggy or full of liquid sunshine.

**Troop elections (Sep. 16):** (08/26) 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. (09/30) Matt L is our new SPL. The incumbents served last week. The new leadership took affect tonight. Terry and Jared finalized most of the appointed positions tonight.

**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. (09/30) A scout from Pack 121 said this was the troop he wanted to join. They had a great time. Pack 121 appreciated being invited. Sandy appreciated all the help from our scouts and parents. 39 guests attended from Packs 139, 429, 400, 600, 141, 121, Troop 139. 2 Webelos scouts will be coming from 400. All 429 boys are coming here. Suggestion for next year: we need a microphone because it's hard to hear; move game from the hall because there is too much of an echo; more displays for parents; key people introduce themselves.

**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. (09/30) The forms will be handed-out next week. Terry and Adriana went over the sheets and price lists tonight. Make sure wreaths are delivered in Mt. Morris instead of Rockford; total time to pick them up is less. It's suggested that the wreaths be dropped off at the tree lot instead of at Steve Fedor's house. If the construction trailer is there that would work otherwise it would not.

**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." (09/30) It was successful. 9 scouts took it, 5 adults assisted. The new TRAINED patches and have green around them; the red ones are no longer available.

**Camp-Boo-Ree (Oct. 10–12):** (08/26) Terry brought it up tonight at the troop meeting. We have to have reservations in a month ahead of time. (09/30) We paid for 15 people in advance. We are close -- about 14 signed up tonight. Steve will pull the trailer.

**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. (09/30) Sandy is working on her list of people to help run it. Biggest concern is having enough room for everyone. She may have to limit the number who come. It's suggested that staff bring cots so we can leave beds for our guests. Maybe we should focus on just the Webelos 2. Sandy will try to work it out. She is going to start working on the activities so they are not a repeat from last year.*

**Swimming (2009):** (08/26) *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.) (09/30) We got a contract from Jefferson. The first night is the first Tuesday in January and the other ones are Mondays. We have had problems getting pools and are looking for suggestions of other places. The Millennium Center was suggested, but we could not get it last year. We need to recruit a lifeguard soon, Terry will call Marcus Tryggstad. Mary Nedland worked really hard to help us out this year -- THANKS MARY!!!*

**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. (09/30) Ed announced that we need to come up with ideas. Send them to Ed via email. They need to be to him before the November Court of Honor so we can present it that night to the boys.*

**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. (09/30) Nothing new.*

### **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:** (08/26) *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.* (09/30) Derek went.

**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:**

<http://www.scouting.org/my scouting/elearning.aspx>

Do it online, and then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Make sure **you** do it through 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. (09/30) Belinda had to tell what her ticket items were; we will get Tim's next month.*

**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. (09/30) Nothing new.*

**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. (09/30) Nothing new at this time, keep handing-out the old red patches that we have until we get new ones. No rush.*

**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. (09/30) We have access to a projector and laptop through Phil's work. The small frame is not working; it is too small. Our Historian came tonight with a camera and gave it to MaryAnn to take the pictures while he was working.

**A garage at the fire station:** (08/26) Building permit! Contractor! And groundbreaking this week!! (09/30) We saw the framing up for the garage at the Fire Station. They are working on it. When theirs is complete, we will get 2/3 of their old building.

**Trees:** (08/26) 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. (09/30) We bought (260) trees at \$10.00 per tree with 50 cents to deliver from Kingman. \$16.00 per tree and 2.00 for delivery from McClusky is a comparison. \$11.50 per tree (6/7' Scotch pine) and unknown delivery cost is a quote from Hensler; they're #1 trees. About a \$6 spread on the Fraser Firs. The last 2 years our profit was \$7,500, suspect it will be only \$4,000 this year. Terry is going to cut back tree order to 400. We will reject the Cherry Vale Mall offer, but they will be selling trees. Our competition is up, but the economy is down. Troop 57 locked in with McClusky but lost their spot for selling. Other troops are having problems also. Mall wanted a tree retailer outside of Bergner's. Terry thinks our business would go down; need to match times of mall (more labor for us), and they'll charge us to be there. Dr. Swanson remains delighted that we will use his corner. It's suggested we lock in to the \$11.50 cost and raise our prices. Terry said we need to be careful on raising it too much since our competition sells them for lower prices. Don't know if the construction will be done before we get there or not. Has anyone checked in to a trailer yet? Ed will call. Start with Lon Tryggstad. We need to get someone to organize the tree lot, with Ed as their advisor. We need to get new adults involved.

## **New Business**

**Tree Lot Schedule (Nov – Dec):** Ed will find someone to work with.

**Veterans Day Parade (Nov. 8):** Terry confirmed it with the village. Terry wants to keep tree lot setup on the same day.

**Tree Lot Campout (Nov. 22):** Are we still going to have it? Yes.

**Jamie Boone Yard Rake (Nov 22):** Unknown, Brian will verify. (post-meeting note – yes)

**Christmas Party (Dec. 16):** Do we want to raise the price from \$7.50? Terry said it was up to the PLC.

**Lake Ripley Camp-in (Jan. 9-11):** We are signed up; it was confirmed 2 weeks ago.

**Klondike Derby (Jan. 17):** The boys wanted to staff it only.

**Continuous Fire (Feb. 7-14):** Are we staffing it again? Yes. Check with our newest Adults to check on their class schedules. Don Reis will continue us on Wednesday, unless we request a change. It will now be at Harlem United Methodist Church, at the same as last year. It will no longer be at the river.

**Russell Woods Camp-in (Feb. 13-15):** Note: our calendar has it as one night ... Error. It will get corrected.

**Scout Sunday CVUMC (Feb. 15?):** Pastor Nancy has answered Terry's email yet as to when it will be. Bobby will be doing Scout Sunday on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Catholic Church to receive his religious award, and needs 2 color guards, American and Troop.

**Scouting for Food Distribution (Feb. 28):** Who is going to run it this year? It's suggested Ryan and Derek do it.

**Popcorn:** Jessica says the pickup will be on November 16<sup>th</sup>, not the 22<sup>nd</sup> as the calendar states. Jessica would like to give up the job of Kernel; we need to find her replacement.

**Rotary Sign:** Rev. Richard Wang, former minister here, said the Rotary sign needs to be repaired. Suggested a Scout take it on as a project. The sign with the case that takes announcements, it belongs to the Rotary Club. Resources could be provided. They would really like a Scout or the Troop to take on the project. Ed showed an interest and got his phone number. They would like to have it done before the winter sets in.

**Summer Camp (Jul. 5-11):** Summer camp at Camp Lowden has been reserved. The Council needs \$100 deposit to hold the date.

**The Tall Ship, Windy (Aug. 22):** The cost is \$750 -- 50 people would make it \$15 per person. There will be a campout with it. Terry says we should consider inviting other troops or packs to fill-out our minimum costs, like we did last time. A \$250 deposit is needed.

Adjourned 9:20 p.m.