



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

January 2003

FLORIDA SEA BASE 2003

If you were unable to attend our meeting on January 13, 2003, please see Mike Taynor to get a copy of the information that was handed out.

The balance is due by May 13, 2003. We will gladly accept payments between now and then if you desire.

PHILMONT 2004

As mentioned in the November newsletter, we were able to reserve 24 spots (2 crews) to attend the high adventure camp at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. All 24 spots are currently filled. If you are interested in attending, please contact Tom McCabe to have your name on a waiting list.

FUNDRAISERS

There are no Troop fundraisers at this time! Our next event is our Third Annual Mega-Demonstration set for March 16th. Please mark your calendars. See the attached flyer.

Thanks to everyone for helping make our Spaghetti Dinner a huge success. As a result of the events like the Spaghetti Dinner and Bingos, we have been able to afford a trailer to carry gear so that we can use all of our seats to transport scouts. We were also able to purchase each scout a sweatshirt and subsidize the Massachusetts trip. If you have not received your sweatshirt yet, see Mike Taynor.

SOUP KITCHEN

Every six weeks a group of scouts with adult leadership lends a hand at the soup kitchen operated by Food for Friends out of Rahway. The next one is scheduled for January 25th which is the same date as the Klondike Derby. If your scout will not be attending the Klondike and is able to help out, contact Tom McCabe. We are looking for 4-6 scouts to help set up and serve lunch.

OUTINGS

Our last outing was our annual ski trip to Shawnee Mountain. The weather was clear and cold, just perfect. A total of 67 scouts, family and friends attended.

The Klondike Derby will be at KMSR during the weekend of January 25th. Scouts can make this a day trip or a camping weekend. Contact Tom McCabe for further details.

The Troop will be experiencing a new activity on March 7-9, 2003. We will be caving in Pennsylvania. The Troop will be traveling underground under the supervision of Carl Heitmeyer. Carl is an experienced

spelunker. He will be making a half hour presentation at our February Parents' Meeting. Please come out for this interesting and informative presentation.

ORDER OF THE ARROW

The Order of the Arrow is an Honor Camping organization within Boy Scouts. Membership is by election only and the elections are usually held in February each year.. In order to be eligible for election a Boy Scout must hold the rank of First Class Scout or higher and have camped a total of 15 days and nights over the last two years. Six, but no more than six of those days & nights of camping must be a long-term camping experience, such as summer camp or a high adventure camp. The election is presided over by an election team of three OA members. At least two of the three members must be from another troop. Each youth member of the troop can cast a vote to decide whether each eligible individual will be admitted to the OA. At least 50% of the troop must be present to hold the election. A simple majority of the vote carries the election. No electioneering or campaigning will be allowed. If at least one member of the Troop is elected to the Order of the Arrow then one adult member of the troop may also be elected to the OA. The adult requirements for eligibility are the 15 days and nights of camping including long term camping, no exceptions. The committee elects the adult member. OA election dates have been submitted to the OA election team committee for this year. The tentative dates are 2/18 or 2/25.

TREASURER'S NOTE

All refunds from the ski trip were credited to your Florida accounts. If you are not attending our Florida trip, the refunds were credited to your scout's account. Refunds were due to overpayments, non-skier credits or cancellations due to illness. Check with Mike Taynor if you have any questions on how much you have credited in any of these accounts.

Adults attending the Massachusetts trip in June are reminded that they are responsible for the entire \$35 cost. Please remit your balance. Scouts were only responsible for the \$15 deposit. The remaining \$20 will be picked up by the Troop.

REMINDERS

The second Tuesday of each month is our Parents meeting. The meetings are held during the regular Troop meeting in one of the classrooms. The meetings provide an opportunity to get details on upcoming events, provide feedback, offer suggestions and get answers to any questions you may have. It is vital to the success of our Troop that parents come out and participate.

The second Monday of each month is the Troop Committee meeting also held at St. John's. The meetings start at 7:30 PM. Parents are always welcome and you do not have to be a member of the committee to attend.

January 24	Bingo (Contact person – Bruce Whitaker)
January 25	Klondike Derby (Contact person – Tom McCabe)
January 25	Soup Kitchen
January 28	Boards of Review
February 10	Committee Meeting
February 11	Parents' Meeting (Caving Presentation)
February 14-16	Winnebago Camping
February 21	Bingo
February 21-22	Trade-O-Ree
February 25	Boards of Review