



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

March 2003

There were four new faces at our meeting on February 25, 2003. Please welcome John Altieri, Louis Garbarini, Eric Hoffman and Ken Rodriguez into our Troop. These scouts crossed over from Troop 72 and it looks like they will be fine additions to our group.

TROOP WEBSITE

Troop 523 now has its very own website. There are links to calendars, forms, resources, Troop policies, Troop Newsletters and much more. It is all possible due to the hard work of Bob and Robert Gill. Our thanks go out to this fantastic father and son duo for launching this site. Members of our troop can get up to date information 24/7. The address is <http://www.troop523.org/>.

NEWSLETTERS

This will be the last newsletter mailed to your homes. All future issues will be posted on the Troop Website. Past issues are also available. Hard copies will be available at Troop meetings if you do not have Internet access.

MEGA-DEMONSTRATION

Our Troop's 3rd Annual Mega-Demonstration is just around the corner on March 16, 2003. It will be held in St. John's Cafeteria from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Another copy of the flyer and informational letter is attached. As stated in the letter, your presence at this event is very important. Stop by for a hotdog and soda and browse our vendor's wares. Lorie Esposito is hard at work adding more vendors all the time. Flyers are available for distribution. See Lorie for copies.

OUTINGS

Our last outing was a weekend at Winnebago Scout Reservation from February 14th to the 16th. A group of our older scouts were able to help fellow members of their Troop work on advancements. Our scouts showed true Scout Spirit in spending their time helping others move up in rank.

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. Hopefully everyone was able to attend his presentation at the February Parents' Meeting.

Summer Camp will be at KMSR this year from June 29 – July 5, 2003. The cost will be \$200 for each scout which includes an early payment discount. Full payment is due no later than March 25, 2003. The cost after that date will be \$225. Summer Camp will be one of the topics covered at our March Parents' Meeting.

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. 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. Our OA elections will take place on March 11, 2003.

A reminder for our current members. Meetings are held at Our Lady of Peace Church in Fords. Meetings start at 7:30 PM. Meetings are scheduled for April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9 and December 11. Contact an adult member if you need a ride.

TREASURER'S NOTE

Contact Mike Taynor if you need to know how much you have credited to your Florida Account or your Scout Account.

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.

Our next Bingo is scheduled for March 28, 2003. Please plan on arriving by 10:00 PM if your are scheduled for that night. Not sure when you are scheduled for or need to make up a date you missed? Bruce Whitaker has all of the answers. See Bruce at one of our meetings or call 732-382-9015.

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.

March 7-9	Troop Caving Trip
March 8	Soup Kitchen
March 10	Committee Meeting
March 11	Parents' Meeting (Summer Camp)
March 11	Order of the Arrow Elections
March 16	Mega-Demonstration
March 21-23	#1 Patrol Trip
March 25	Boards of Review
March 28	Bingo
April 2	PLC Meeting
April 4-6	KMSR Fix-up Weekend