

The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA

December 2010 - January 2011

924 7th Street, Port Huron MI 48060

1-810-982-9529

1-888-98SCOUT www.bwbsa.org

Editor: Judy McCarthy



From Our Scout Executive

As the 100th Anniversary year of Scouting comes to an end, I can't help but think back on the Blue Water Council's year and what a success it was. We started out the 100th Year of Scouting with a wonderful display of our local Scouting history at the Port Huron Museum. We had good participation in the Rotary International Day Parade and brought back the Scout Show at Pine Grove Park. In 2010, we made several improvements to Silver Trails Camp including new first aid kits and a facelift to the Kane Building. The new bridge project got off to a good start. We had a wonderfully successful Sporting Clays Shoot that was bigger and better than it has ever been. We had 3,558 youth participate in the different Scouting programs held at Silver Trails. We can't forget the 36 Boy Scouts that had the opportunity to experience the 100th Anniversary National Jamboree. 2010 was a very good year for the Blue Water Council and none of this could have happened without each and every one of you who volunteered to help serve the youth that benefit from the Scouting program. I am excited to start the next 100 years of Scouting and with volunteers like we have in the Blue Water Council, I am sure the future will be as successful as our past. Thank you for what you do for Scouting and have a Happy Holiday season.

Yours in Scouting,
Paul W. Schwartz



Go Polar! Get Your Chill On!

Got your gear? Are you ready? It's time for Polar Bear in the Blue Water Council! Starting December 1 through March 19, get outside and stay outside for at least 24 hours and earn an awesome patch! Forms are available in the Scout Service Center and on www.bwbsa.org. Patches are available for \$3.50 each. Check it out!



Results of the 2010 Popcorn Sales Game are in!

With the conclusion of the 2010 Popcorn Sale, scores are in with approximately \$250,000 in sales!



Highlights of the event:

- 26 Units increased their sales records from last year!
- Pack 296 increased sales by over \$7,000 and Pack 261 came in with a close second, increasing their sales by nearly \$4,500!
- Units that sold over \$1,000 more than last year include: Troops 104 and 331, Packs 141, 171, 178, 201, 222, 226, 242, 246, 261, 296, 327, 328 and Crew 297!

\$1,000 touchdowns and above were scored by:

- Ben Bovenschen, Pack 327
- Erik Parker, Pack 222
- Isaac Keinath, Pack 351
- Ryan Hubbert, Pack 296
- Jordan Hall, Troop 322
- Cody Heier, Pack 201
- Justin Trigger, Pack 351
- Travis Trigger, Pack 351
- Nathaniel McConnachie, Troop 333
- Chris Mutch, Pack 328
- Kyle Martinez, Pack 328
- Mitchell Sobolewski, Pack 296
- Kody Gould, Pack 328
- Jon Shovan, Pack 296
- Jacob Nutaitis, Pack 245
- Gavin Lang, Pack 261
- Alex Muma, Pack 333
- Ryan Isham, Pack 201



Congratulations to all 18 participants on receiving Council Event registration fees waived for the 2011 calendar year. Certificates will be distributed from the Scout Service Center to your packs.

MVP's of the Sale-Individual

Highest Overall Sales: Ben Bovenschen from Pack 327, with a record sale of \$3,501! For his great efforts, Ben will receive a Wii or \$200 gift card from Pecatonica Popcorn!

Top District Salesman, Three Rivers District: Erik Parker, Pack 222

Top District Salesman, Black River Basin District: Ben Bovenschen, Pack 327

Both Ben and Erik will receive a \$150 gift card from the Blue Water Council for their superior sales skills and title of Top District Salesman in their respective Districts.

MVP's of the Sale-Unit

Top Selling Unit, Blue Water Council: Pack 296

Top Selling Unit, Three Rivers District: Pack 296

Top Selling Unit, Black River Basin: Pack 327

The other high top selling units all selling over \$11,000 are Packs 261, 327, 201 and Pack 351. **Thanks to all participating Scouts and Units for a job well done this year.**

Cub Scout News

Cub Scare Night, Fun for All!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Cub Scare Night 2010. The rain held off for the better part of the evening, allowing for families to enjoy the spookiness of Silver Trails! New to the program this year - participants made trick-or-treat bags and went "cabin treating" for goodies. After the fun up top of camp, families, if they dared went through the haunted Kane Cabin for a Halloween thrill! After the survival of the Kane Cabin, participants hopped on wagons for a hayride through the woods ending with cider and donuts for all!

A big thanks to Crew 297, the Biskner family and all the volunteers who made the event an enjoyable time!



Mom & Me Medieval Knights of Silver Trails

What a perfect weekend for Cub Scouts and Moms! Thank you to all the Lords and Ladies for joining us for lots of Medieval fun! You made it worth all the planning as we watched the excitement in your faces while you swung those swords like valiant knights! A special thank you to Chairperson Laura Knuth for once again running a spectacular event! And to Julie and Jasmine Shubel for bringing their horses and giving us a show! All the volunteers deserve huge thanks for giving of your weekend to make this event special for our Cub Scouts and Moms. It could not happen without all of you!

Cub Winter Fun Day February 6, 2011

We are looking for volunteers to help organize Cub Winter Fun Day in February. Please call Cyndi Jagodzinski at 810-982-9529 or cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org if you can help.



Volunteers Needed for Dad & Lad 2011!

It's time to start planning Dad & Lad and the committee needs your help! If you are interested in assisting in the planning of the event or in helping to staff, please contact Korissa Kramer at 810-982-9529 or korissa.kramer@scouting.org. Dad & Lad will be May 20-22, 2011. This will be an event to experience!

Cub Scout at State Capital

Hunter Ketterer, Bear Cub Scout from Pack 222 in Algonac, won a day as a Junior Representative with State Representative Phil Pavlov for reading over 8 hours during the summer with the Algonac/Clay Library. Representative Pavlov and his staff taught the children about the process of debating and voting on laws. They debated 2 mock bills and voted on them. The children had a tour of the Capital and lunch with Mr. Pavlov. They also received certificates, a book and were sworn in as Junior Representatives.



Cub Scout Roundtables

Welcome to Cub Scout Roundtable 2010-2011. This year our Roundtables are focused on the Core Values of Scouting. So far, we have covered Responsibility, Citizenship and Respect. It has been great fun and our commissioners are just getting warmed up. We have a wonderful energetic group that attends and we want to welcome many, many more. We have the power to "teach kids to count, but teaching them what counts is best!"



So mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Scout Service Center. December's Roundtable will focus on 'Positive Attitude'.

Joni, Kathy & Stacy - Cub Scout Round Table Commissioners

National Summertime Pack Award

Two more packs have turned in their applications for the National Summertime Pack Award. We have six packs that have qualified. To qualify for this award, packs must have an activity in June, July and August. Packs can then get a certificate and award streamer for the pack flag. Cubs that attend all three activities can earn the National Summertime Award pin.

Congratulations to:

Pack 102	Pack 245
Pack 222	Pack 296
Pack 226	Pack 322



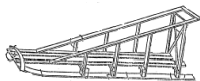


oy Scout News

Klondike South -

“A Race for Gold in the Cold!”

All Scouts and Webelos are invited to re-enact the historic trek to the Klondike on January 29. The cost is \$13 per Scout/Adult and \$5 for 2nd year Webelos. Pre-registration must be received by 5 pm on Monday, January 24, 2011.



Late registrations will be \$16 per Scout/Adult.

This is an excellent winter event for your Troop to participate in! Experience cold weather camping, practice your cold weather skills and compete for the title of top sled design. A flyer for registration will be mailed after Thanksgiving. Questions or individuals that would like to help volunteer can contact Korissa Kramer at 810-982-9529 or korissa.kramer@scouting.org.

Order of the Arrow News

It's the time of year for troops to sign up for Order of the Arrow elections and Camp Promotion Reports. All of the elections will be held through January to March so you need to sign up now so we can be fully prepared to do your election. You can sign up for your election by contacting me at allen.matt.12@gmail.com or by calling me at 810-985-5922.

Matthew Allen, Chief



Mackinac Island Service Troop 168

This is your opportunity to be part of the 30th year for the Mackinac Island Governors Honor Patrol. The experience you will have will build memories that you will have for the rest of your life. The first meeting for the Mackinac Island Service Troop will be Sunday, January 23, 2011 at the American Legion on 6th Street in Port Huron at 2 pm.

Please mark your calendar and come join us for this great opportunity!



The other meetings are: February 20, March 27, pancake breakfast April 20, 2011. These meetings are at the American Legion on 6th Street in Port Huron from 2-4 pm. The dates for the trip are not known at this time. If your troop would like to schedule a presentation or for more information, contact Kirk Seibert at 810-765-2892.

Boy Scout Roundtable

Boy Scout leaders! Don't miss the next meeting! Chris Knuth has so many good ideas and new information to take back to your troops! The next one is on Conservation and how many things we, as Scouts and Scouters, can do to be conservation minded. He will even show participants how to make a cool bat house! Be at the Scout Service Center at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 for another awesome meeting!

Klondike North - “The Amazing Race”

The Klondike event of 2011 will take on some new challenges and happen February 18-20. This year's theme is “THE AMAZING RACE”. Racers will be traveling across the great northern tundra in search of clues and performing challenges. Teams will begin Friday night building the sled that will carry all of the needed items to make the journey. Many challenges will face the teams as they travel. Brain teasers, physical challenges, team challenges and several others that will require using your Boy Scout skills will be faced along the way. The list of items to carry on the sled is very important, which you will get when you register. You will not complete the journey without them, so please pay close attention to the list and make sure your team has all of the items on your sled. Missing items will NOT be available during the event. Weigh In, Potato Fire, See Saw Challenge, Cover up, Fire Fire Fire, Blanket Carry, Search and Rescue, Taming the Bull and Puzzle Head will be just a few of the stops. You will be traveling to the northern tip of the world so you may want to learn a few Western Eskimo phrases just in case! <http://www.arcticwebsite.com/EskimoSpeak.html> Check out this website for some assistance. (You are strongly encouraged to know these.)

Shelters may be built Friday night which will earn you additional clues to be used Saturday. As tradition requires, we will burn the sleds at the end of the day on Saturday. If you choose, bring food to cook on the fire along with skits ready to perform around the campfire. That is where we will announce the winners. Campers may choose to stay in camp Saturday night and attend services Sunday morning.

We are also asking each Troop that enters a team (6 boys or less) to provide 1 adult to help with the program. The adults will be needed to run challenges along the way. There will be a meeting Friday night in the main lodge at 9:00 p.m. for Senior Patrol Leaders and adult leaders.

So start practicing your lashing, first aid skills, western Eskimo phrases such as Kish-tu-ah and we will see you on the trail!

For additional information or questions, please contact Mike Timm 810-531-4338 or email michaeltimm@comcast.net. Call the Scout Service Center to register, 810-982-9529.



We congratulate the following young men for earning their Eagle Scout rank.

Troop 168

Ronald Isaac

Troop 178

Justin Martin

Troop 245

Sherwood Baker

Troop 322

Timothy Scott

Troop 333

Matthew Orchard

Eagle Scout Award Kits are being sponsored by the Port Huron Kiwanis Club in memory of Clayton Berdan. Each Eagle Scout receives an award kit which includes the Eagle Scout patch, Eagle Scout medal, and parent pins. Thank you to the Kiwanis for this generous contribution.

ews for All ...

Home on the Reservation

One of the nice things about our Silver Trails Scout Reservation is that we cherish it as our home. Come on in, stop a while, drop in for a visit...are but a few of our greetings.

All of these are well and good, yet you are being asked to pause and reflect. As our review of camp use and policies have shown, a fair number of surprises have surfaced.

Non Scouters and some Scouts and Scouters who haven't registered to be in camp or at events are never-the-less participating and using our camp facilities.

Yes, this equates to lost revenue to support camp. More importantly, those individuals and units put themselves at risk since they are without BSA insurance protection when not properly paid and checked in by the Ranger and staff.

Also, our upgraded evaluation and emergency plan relies on the sign-in log to locate us all and to notify first responders and your loved ones.

Sooo....let's work together and "Be Prepared".

The Council Risk Management Committee

Merit Badge Counselor Update

Merit badge counselors are registered in this position for one year and then must be re-registered. The term for merit badge counselors in the Blue Water Council is December 1 through November 30. All merit badge counselors that were registered on November 1 were sent a letter asking if they wanted to renew their registration for another year. If you received the letter and want to remain a merit badge counselor, you don't have to notify us. We will automatically re-register you (on December 1) as a merit badge counselor for the badges listed on your letter for the year December 1, 2010 through November 30, 2011. **However all registered adults including merit badge counselors must now have Youth Protection Training.** If you don't have Youth Protection, we cannot re-register you as a merit badge counselor. Information was included in the letter about the training. If you don't want to remain a merit badge counselor, please contact Judy at the Scout Service Center.



If you think you are registered as a merit badge counselor but did not receive a letter, your registration as a merit badge counselor may have expired and you will need to fill out a new Merit Badge Counselor application. A new merit badge counselor list will be available in January 2011.

Thank you to everyone who serves Scouting by being a merit badge counselor.

New Centennial Council Shoulder Patch

There is a limited edition Blue Water Council shoulder strip to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Scouting!

Black Ghost Patch \$3.50 White Ghost Patch \$3.50
Black Ghost with gold \$10.00 White Ghost with gold \$10.00

Fall Camporee A Great Success

A huge thank you to Gary Lentz and Troop 245 for the Emergency Preparedness/Readyman program and mock disaster! Not only did our Scouts earn and learn, the Blue Water Council also learned how many issues we need to address in a real life disaster situation. An even bigger Thank You to the Grant Township Fire Department for being such a big part of the whole program and supporting our efforts to teach Scouts the importance of prevention, being proactive and how to react in bad situations. Thank you again to everyone who helped and participated in the event.

Venture Out Weekend

What an awesome weekend everyone had! Good food, good shooting and great company! Crews 132, 245 and 277 camped out at Silver Trails to work on their Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award. Four Square Sportsman's Club hosted the shooting part of the program with shotgun, rifle and handgun shooting. Some people can really shoot and others need a little more practice before thinking about competition! They also learned about backpacking, first aid, firearm safety, Leave No Trace and archery shooting. Thank you to Ranger Jerry for setting up the program for our Venturers!

New Sea Scout Ship 320 in Lexington

Welcome to our new unit Ship 320 from Lexington! Welcome to the new leaders and Crew Members! Their first meeting was November 17 and how exciting it was! The new Skipper Chris Shaffer is ready to sail! He is very enthusiastic about working with the youth and teaching them how to sail many different kinds of vessels. He comes with many years of experience and is a great asset to the program. Glad to have you 'On Board'!

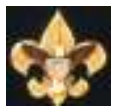
Florida Sea Base 2011 Adventure July 31-August 6, 2011

Let's go sailing, kayaking, deep sea fishing, snorkeling and camping on primitive Big Munson Island, visit Key West and much, much more! There are only a few youth positions still available. Our first meeting is Sunday, December 12, 2010 at Silver Trails Scout Reservation at 2 pm. If you are not signed up yet but are thinking about going, then come to this meeting. For more information contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at 810-982-9529.

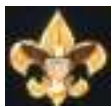


Volunteers Needed

The Blue Water Council is looking for a few good people. Do you go to Mom & Me or Cub Scare Night? How about Spring Camporee or Winter Klondike? It takes volunteers to make those events happen. We need registered adults and Scouts to staff all our events or even take the plunge and become an event chairperson! A troop or pack can plan and run an event and your whole unit can staff it! What a great idea! We cannot do it without you! Call Cyndi or Korissa to let them know how you want to get involved.



Memorials



Elaine Shimmel
John D. Shimmel

Adult Leader Award Recipients

Cub Scouter Award-Kathleen Graham
Webelos Den Leader Award-Kathleen Graham



Commissioner Corner

A well-planned program, delivered by a trained leader, with a strong outdoor program, supported by a good commissioner, attracts and retains youth! While I did not come up with that statement, it is my belief that it is absolutely true. We live in a time when many different activities compete for the attention of our youth. Some of these activities are good, such as family time, attending church, sport and school. Others are not so good and some are just plain terrible. The Boy Scouts of America has been around for 100 years and provides great activities for young people based on strong moral values, a great outdoor program, trained leaders and family participation. Parents need all the assistance they can get to successfully raise their children in today's world. The Boy Scouts of America offers that assistance.



Our Commissioner Staff provides guidance and assistance to Blue Water Council packs, troops, venturing crews and explorer posts and their adult leaders so they can be successful and provide the kind of program and opportunities parents are looking for. As Council Commissioner, I am always looking for experienced Scouters who are willing to step up and develop a strong relationship with Scout units and help mentor them. The value of a good unit commissioner cannot be over estimated. If you feel interested in helping the young people in your community by serving as a unit commissioner, please contact the Council Service Center.

Steve McPherson

Centennial Quality Unit Recognition

It is once again time to review the past year's goals for your unit. The Centennial Quality Unit Award recognizes outstanding packs, troops, crews and ships that conduct a quality program for their youth on an annual basis. Unit leaders received a copy of the requirements for Centennial Quality Unit Award in the mail. Please make sure to review, complete and return the forms to the Scout Service Center by December 15, 2010.



It is extremely important to have these forms in to the Scout Service Center in order to meet the deadline and to ensure that your unit receives acknowledgement for all of their achievements. If you have any questions about the forms or need assistance, please contact your District Executive, Cyndi Jagodzinski, Black River Basin or Korissa Kramer, Three Rivers.

Scout Shop News

The holidays are just around the corner; visit the Scout Shop for gifts for your favorite Scout. Visit www.scoutstuff.org and make your list before visiting the Scout Shop. If we don't have it in stock, it can be special ordered at no additional charge. The Scout Shop is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. If you are unable to make it to the Scout Shop, call, email or fax your order, and we can ship it to you.

The new Youth Denim jeans for \$9.99, and the Boy Scout and Cub Scout t-shirts for \$6.99 are in stock now. Get them while they are hot... makes great Christmas gifts for your Scout. Whether shopping for a gift for your Scout or Leader, we have something for everyone. Pinewood Derby kits are available for your pack to give out at December pack meetings. Call and preorder yours to make sure they are available when you come in.

New items have also been added to the Clearance Section. The black and white versions of the Merit Badge pamphlet are available for only \$1.00 while they last. The Scout Shop will be open until 7 pm on Wednesday, December 8 & January 12 to accommodate the leaders attending Roundtable.

Internet Re-chartering Information

Internet re-chartering is a Web-based method for units to renew their charters from any online location - at home or at the office. It's easy, convenient and accurate because you enter the information yourself!

Here's how it works...

The Blue Water Council will have an Internet Rechartering page on our Website (www.bwcbasa.org) with instructions and a link to the software. The unit receives its charter renewal packet as usual, only now the packet includes information for Internet re-chartering, including an access code especially for the unit. The unit selects an adult to complete the online process. The renewal processor uses the access code to log onto the Internet Re-chartering Website, selecting to start the process with current ScoutNET data or data from unit-management software. At any time, the renewal processor can suspend the electronic re-chartering process and return later to the last completed screen.

The system lets you enter new members, renew current members and update information for any registrant. When completed, the new unit roster is submitted to ScoutNET and a Unit Charter Renewal Report Package is printed. This package includes the unit charter application. Acquire the signatures for the charter and send it along with the rest of the package, any new youth and adult applications, and all fees to the council.

There will be a link to the Internet re-chartering tutorial and help on the Blue Water Council Website. Check it out - we think you'll like the design. All BSA policies are enforced throughout the system, so what you enter is sure to meet all requirements.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Janice Dubay at the Blue Water Council office 810-982-9529 or judubay@bsamail.org.

Black River Basin District News

100 and 300 Units in St. Clair and Sanilac Counties

It's time for Thanksgiving! What are you thankful for? I am thankful to God for my family and that all my children are okay. I am also thankful for my Scouting family and all the support I get to help our district be the best it can be. Thank you to my Unit Leaders for running quality programs to keep kids in Scouting and to my District Committee and Commissioners for doing their jobs and making it a great year! I've said it many times and cannot say it enough - it takes all of us together to make it happen. Thank You!

Centennial Quality Unit forms must be turned in by December 15! Fill out your achievements for this year and return to me and purchase awards for your unit when qualifying for Centennial Quality Unit! We need Quality Units to be Quality District!

Looking for something fun to do - volunteer for Cub Winter Fun Day. We need a chairperson with some exciting new ideas! Call me with yours!

Cyndi Jagodzinski

A Note from Black River Basin's District Membership Committee Chair – Linda Green

As a District Committee, we are finding confusion related to training. In assessing the situation, we are posting these requirements for unit leaders to clear up some confusion:

1. Every leader must fill out an adult application.
2. Every leader must complete Youth Protection training for that position.
3. Every leader changing their position in a unit must fill out another adult application.
4. Each leader must complete the required position specific training for their position.
5. Every registered volunteer must renew Youth Protection training every two years.

By making sure all volunteers are properly trained in their registered position, our district can achieve its goal of 100% trained leaders. You must be registered in the position you are doing. If you want credit for being a Cub Scout Den Leader, you must be registered in that position.

If you do any Youth Protection training in your unit, fill out a Training Attendance Report and turn in to the Scout Service Center to be recorded in individual profiles.

Our goals for the Black River Basin District Committee are:

1. To have all our leaders trained and for all the adults working with our Scouts to be trained in Youth Protection. Trained leaders provide a better program and keep our Scouts involved.
2. To have all Cub Scouts make it to Eagle Scout!



BSA 2010 A Year of Celebration

Scouts and Scouters - there is still time to earn the ribbons for this patch. For more information on this award check our website at www.bwcbsa.org and www.Scouting.org/100years.

Do You Need Training?

Yes you do! Every Scout deserves a Trained Leader. Our Cub Scout and Boy Scout training teams are well-experienced and willing to share their knowledge with you. Have any training questions? Call our trainers! Contact Cub Scout Chair Dawn Almstadt 810-392-2805 or Boy Scout Chair Dave Zarling 810-987-0226. **Don't forget... every single registered volunteer must have Youth Protection training. We cannot register new leaders or recharter anyone without it. Go to www.bwcbsa.org to take the training online.**

What Makes a Trained Leader?

Adult leaders are considered trained and eligible to wear the official "Trained" emblem recognition once they have completed the basic training requirements outlined below.

Cub Scout: (OLC-Online at www.scouting.org/training)

- Fast Start (OLC)
- Youth Protection (OLC)
- Leader Specific (by position) (Now available OLC)
- This is Scouting (OLC)

Boy Scout: (OLC-Online at www.scouting.org/training)

- Fast Start (OLC)
- Youth Protection (OLC)
- Leader Specific (by position)
- This is Scouting (OLC)
- Introduction to Outdoor Skills



Venturing/Sea Scout: (OLC-Online at www.scouting.org/training)

- Fast Start (OLC)
- Youth Protection (OLC)
- Leader Specific (by position)
- This is Scouting (OLC)
- Introduction to Outdoor Skills

(For Crews with Outdoor Programs)

When you use your membership number to take the training, it should go directly to your profile. Always print off the certificate and bring a copy to the Scout Service Center to be sure you are given credit for the training.

Wood Badge Training Next Summer

Leadership Training at its best! Wood Badge is a series of fun and educational training activities that are conducted with a high degree of integrity and personal respect. The Wood Badge experience includes: learning and applying leadership techniques, learning effective managerial skills in a classroom setting, solving problems and meeting challenges, developing friendships that will last a lifetime, putting the "Scouting Method" into practice by camping, cooking and working as a team, and having a great time with lots of fun!



The Blue Water Council has teamed up with Tall Pine Council in Flint to offer this great course on two three-day weekends on August 12-14, 2011 and September 9-11, 2011 at Camp Holaka in Lapeer. The course is limited to 48 participants and the spots are going fast! Sign up today! Flyers with all the details are available on www.bwcbsa.org or at the Scout Service Center.

From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



The soft whisper of my Kevlar canoe slicing through the water is the constant background noise to the sounds of the river. An occasional turtle slipping into the deep or a duck startled by my presence are the only distraction to the constant “swish” of waters parted by the canoe.

When my paddling is of proper form, not even the sound of the paddle entering or exiting the water is an interruption. In the wake of the canoe is a small trail that is quickly erased as the water “heals” from its wound. Nothing else matters. This is solitude. It is in these moments that I enjoy reflecting on special memories of the outdoors and my experiences there.

I no longer remember the event that took me to Silver Trails on that cold winter morning. The camp was empty and silent. I sat on the front porch of the Rotary Lodge with a cup of coffee as the sun was rising. The snow was falling in huge flakes that had an almost artificial appearance. It was amazing, like being “in” a snow globe!

The most incredible feature of the morning was the silence. It was so silent that I could hear the flakes of snow hitting the ground. The air was so cold and dense, the flakes so large, and the silence so total, that I could genuinely hear them. In the modern vernacular, it was “way cool”. That’s a memory that will stay with me always.

I can remember another time, perhaps my first Klondike Derby or one of the many routine winter camps when I woke in the night and turned on my flashlight. I can remember my face being a bit cold, but otherwise comfortably warm in my sleeping bag. The silence was broken only by occasional snores from other campers.

I looked up inside the tent. I was amazed to see thousands of tiny ice crystals formed there. The moisture in my breath was freezing into a phenomenal array of ice crystals and rendering my tent a virtual work of art! Maybe it was so extremely cold, or the volume of moisture in all my “hot air” so great or perhaps some other unknown features of the night that came together to create the work of art. That it would only survive till the sunrise made it all the more special to me. I won’t forget the wonder I felt that night.

More recently, I stood at the headwaters of the mighty Missouri River in a place called Three Forks. There, at the confluence of the Jefferson and Madison Rivers, the Missouri River is born. Within a quarter mile, the Gallatin River joins in to add its flavor to the mix. The Missouri continues for more than 2300 miles till it joins with the Mississippi River, its journey to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Missouri River, the longest river in North America, served as a highway for Meriwether Lewis and William Clark during 1804-1806 in their quest for a route to the Pacific Ocean. They had camped at the very place in which I stood. I looked up at a rock bluff, perhaps 300’ high, from which Lewis and Clark mapped the area and gathered celestial information.

Gazing into the flowing waters that birth the mighty Missouri brought all this to life for me. I could imagine John Coulter, who was a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Following the expedition, he returned to this area and has come to be regarded as the first “Mountain Man”.

John Coulter is most famous for “Coulter’s Run” which began near the place I stood. He and his partner were involved in a skirmish with the Blackfoot Indians. His partner was killed and Coulter was captured. Coulter was later released and allowed to “run for his life” with Blackfoot braves in pursuit. Coulter outran the braves and found his way back to civilization and safety, making his mark in history with the famous “Run”. With only the sounds of the river as a backdrop, all this came to life for me.

The silence of the moments we are offered in the outdoors can take us to incredible places and times. In the beauty of ice crystals that gather for a moment in time, in the silence of a canoe trip up a river or in the history of special places we can enjoy, we are offered small treasures. If we take the time to look, listen and really experience these subtle offerings, a blessing is guaranteed.

Get “into the outdoors”. Learn to be still and really experience all that the outdoors has to offer. Take time to know the history of the places you go. In the silence you command, the outdoors will speak volumes. Teach your Scouts to do the same. These are the lessons they will enjoy for a lifetime.

Steve Down

Scouting for Food with the Salvation Army and Blue Water Council

We have kicked off our holiday community service in the Blue Water Council! Community service is a big part of Scouting and collecting food for families in need falls right into that category. The Blue Water Council and the Salvation Army will once again be teaming up for this year’s Scouting for Food program. Saturday, December 4 is bag drop off day and Saturday, December 11 is bag pick up. Information sheets, bags and bag labels are available in the Scout Service Center for your unit. Maps are in the resource room with the other materials to set up your collection areas. Highlight your neighborhood that you will be covering on the map provided. Thank you for helping those in need! If you have any questions, contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at 810-982-9529 or cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org.



Centennial Recruiter Patches Still Available

Scouts can earn this new Centennial Recruiter patch by recruiting a new boy into their pack or troop this year. Have your Scouts tell all their friends about the fun and adventure of Scouting. This is a special patch which will only be available until the end of the year.





The BRIDGE
BLUE
WATER
COUNCIL

924 7th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
Port Huron, MI
48060
Permit No. 307

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Member Agency



December

- 1 Polar Bear Begins
- 1 Commissioner Meetings - 7 pm
- 3 Unit Popcorn Pickup - 6 pm FedEx
- 4 Salvation Army Bag Drop Off
- 8 Boy Scout & Cub Scout Roundtables - 7 pm
- 11 Salvation Army Bag Pick Up
- 11 OA Leadership Meeting
- 13 Executive Committee Meeting - 6 pm SSC
- 15 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 24,27 Scout Service Center Closed**
- 28 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 29 Archery Committee Meeting - 7 pm
- 31 New Year's Eve - Scout Service Center Closed**

January

- 3 Scout Service Center Closed**
- 5 Commissioner Meeting - 7 pm
- 6 FOS Family Kickoff - 7 pm SSC
- 8 OA Banquet
- 10 Executive Board Meeting
- 12 Boy Scout & Cub Scout Roundtables
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - SSC Closed**
- 19 District Planning Conference
- 25 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 26 Properties Committee Meeting - 7 pm SSC
- 30 Klondike South

LOST & FOUND

We have some jackets and sweatshirts left from fall activities at Silver Trails. If not picked up soon, they will be donated.

Blue Water Council #277 on Facebook
Check out our Facebook page for our Scout Activities.

Council President

Earl DesJardins 810-984-5506 ext 201

Council Commissioner

Steve McPherson 810-966-2246

Black River Basin District

Terry Green-District Chairman 810-385-7669
Randy Smith-District Commissioner 810-305-0783

Three-Rivers District

Dan Steinmetz-District Chairman 810-765-9765
Dan Conrad-District Commissioner 810-794-9907

Roundtable Commissioners

Chris Knuth-BS Roundtable 810-434-6189
Kathy Graham, Joni MacLean & Stacy Dasher - CS RT Team



Holiday Hours

December 24, 27 CLOSED
December 28, 29, 30 Open 9 am-5 pm
December 31 & January 3 CLOSED

Scout Service Center Staff 810-982-9529

	e-mail address
Paul Schwartz Scout Executive	paulw.schwartz@scouting.org
Korissa Kramer District Executive	korissa.kramer@scouting.org
Cyndi Jagodzinski Paraprofessional	cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org
Janice Dubay Office Mgr./Finance	jdubay@bsamail.org
Jerry Deeg Camp Ranger	jerry.deeg@scouting.org
Judy McCarthy Secretary/Receptionist	jumccart@bsamail.org
Lori Thueme Scout Shop Manger	lori.thueme@scouting.org