

# The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA

February-March 2011

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Editor: Judy McCarthy



## From Our Scout Executive

This year, the Blue Water Council is combining the Council Annual Banquet, the District Banquet and the Eagle Recognition Dinner into one event. Many people have asked why. The thought process behind this decision is that this combination will be a win-win event. In the past, the Eagle Scout Dinner has been a great event, but is mostly attended by the Scouts and their parents. This combined event will put the Eagle Scouts on a bigger stage, and they will not only be recognized by their parents, but by the Council Executive Board and the District Committees. It will also allow the Scouts and parents see the volunteers that work behind the scenes to make sure Scouting exists in our communities. This is a win-win event. This banquet will allow the Executive Board and District Committees to see what they are working so hard for - the Scouts. They will also get to see the best of the best and give them more incentive to continue their work for Scouting. Remember, change is a good thing. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Banquet on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Yours in Scouting,  
Paul W. Schwartz*

## Blue Water Council Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner is Monday, April 11

This year, we are combining the Eagle Banquet, District Awards Banquet and Annual Dinner to make one great celebration of Scouting. We invite all Scouts to attend and celebrate 101 years of Scouting and recognize the great volunteers who have helped the Blue Water Council and recognize the accomplishments of our newest Eagle Scouts.

**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011

**Time:** 6:30 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner

**Location:** Alexander's Banquet Center  
1195 Gratiot Avenue, Marysville

**Cost:** \$17.00 per person (buffet dinner)  
*(Eagle Scouts are no charge)*

**Featuring:** Election & installation of 2011-2012 Board and Officers and District Committees, Scouting recognitions, District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver presentations, recognition of Eagle Scouts.

Reservation for the dinner must be made by Wednesday, April 6, 2011. A flier is available on our website at [www.bwcbasa.org](http://www.bwcbasa.org).



Award of Merit



## We Need Friends! Friends of Scouting Friends!

Have you ever participated in a Mom & Me? How about a Dad & Lad or Klondike, Camporee or Archery Shoot? Have you or your son been able to enjoy the beautiful trees, sweet sounds of water in the creek or a delicious S'more at a campfire? Well that's what Friends of Scouting is all about! It's the opportunity to give all these great experiences to every Scout and family in the Blue Water Council. It costs \$172 to pay for one Scout for a whole year. A whole year's worth of great programs through their pack, troop or crew and the Scout Service Center is only \$14.50 a month, \$3 a week or \$.50 a day! What an awesome way to support the future leaders of our country!



When your unit has a Blue & Gold Banquet or Court of Honor, show those boys just how important their programs are! Your generous donation will help give every boy a Scouting opportunity.

If your unit does not have a Friends of Scouting presentation scheduled, please contact Cyndi Jagodzinski or Korissa Kramer. Thanks for your generous support!

## District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Awards

The District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Awards will be presented at the Blue Water Council Annual Dinner on April 11. Nominations for both awards are due by February 28 at the Scout Service Center.

Each year the Black River Basin and the Three Rivers Districts award volunteers with the highest award a District can bestow, the **District Award of Merit**. Nominations are open to all volunteers.

The highest award a council can give one of its volunteers is the **Silver Beaver Award**. The Blue Water Council recognizes a deserving volunteer with this award at its annual dinner. Award recipients are nominated by individuals and are "surprised" with the award at this dinner.

Award nominations are now being accepted at the Scout Service Center for the 2011 Silver Beaver Award. There is no set criteria for this award; however the selection committee considers Scouting experience, other community and religious involvement, leadership, and other recognition. As always, the more information that is provided on the nomination form will enable the selection committee to pick the most deserving candidates. Letters of support can also accompany the nomination form.

Anyone can nominate a deserving volunteer. Nomination forms can be picked up at the Scout Service Center or at [www.bwcbasa.org](http://www.bwcbasa.org). If you have any questions, please contact Korissa Kramer or Cyndi Jagodzinski.

*This newsletter is being mailed to the addresses of all registered adults.*



# Cub Scout News

## Dad and Lad at the Safari!

It's the first opportunity this spring to go camping! Why not do it in the Jungle? This year's Dad and Lad theme is Safari, so come out and enjoy the WILD adventures of the Jungle at Silver Trails Scout Reservation!

Spend your time doing activities like BB guns, archery, scout crafts, games, a campfire with songs and skits and more!



**First Session: May 20-21, 2011**  
**Second Session: May 21-22, 2011**



If you are interested in volunteering as a Safari Guide, please contact Korissa Kramer at the Scout Service Center, 810-982-9529 or by email, [korissa.kramer@scouting.org](mailto:korissa.kramer@scouting.org)

More information and a flyer will be available soon. Mark your calendar now with these dates. You won't want to miss it!!

## Scout Night with the Port Huron Fighting Falcons Hockey Team

**When:** Friday, February 11, 2011

**Where:** McMorran Main Arena

**Tickets:** \$5.00 for Scouts & families

In order to get a \$5.00 ticket, you will need to purchase your voucher at the Scout Service Center no later than February 10. The first 100 Scouts to purchase a voucher will receive a Scout Night Patch! The first 500 people to walk in the door on game night will receive a team poster.

Scouts wearing their uniform at the game will be asked to line up before the National Anthem and opening ceremonies.

Following the game, Scouts will be able to meet some of the players and get autographs. Open skate will be available to those who complete a waiver and bring their own skates.



## Scoutreach News from Ranger Jerry

Greetings from Pack 112 Cleveland Elementary, Pack 113 Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Pack 241 MacDonald Elementary, Pack 242 Maconce Elementary and Pack 247 Kimball Elementary. This year's Scoutreach program has been buzzing with excitement. We have been participating in an in-school archery program, and the Scouts are doing a great job.



We will also be working on survival kits, the outdoor program and leather working. The 3rd through 5th grade boys will be earning their whittling chip soon.

## Cub Winter Fun Day \*\*\* SNOW FUN!!

SNOW FUN! That's what it's all about!

Come out and join us for some wintry white fun! Knock down that big wall with your huge snowball! Work your way through the course like you're a horse! Tag your buddies but don't get frozen, and watch out for those marshmallows when the wind is a blowin'.



Registration starts at 9:15 am. The event runs from 10 am-2 pm on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Sledding will be available from 2:15-4 p.m. Bring your own sleds. Cost for Winter Fun Day is \$6 per person for Cub Scouts and Adults. Dress warm and in layers. Boots are a must; no tennis shoes. Need more information? Contact Cyndi Jagodzinski, 810-982-9529

[cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org](mailto:cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org)

## Cub Scout Roundtables

**Dates:** February 9, 2011  
March 9, 2011

**Time:** 7 pm

**Place:** Blue Water Council Service Center

Remember the Scout Shop stays open until 7 pm. so come early and get your supplies and awards before the meeting starts.



## Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Boy Scout Troop 168

This is our 30th year of serving as the Governor's Honor Troop. The dates for this year's trip are June 25-July 2, 2011.

If any Boy Scout in your troop is interested in going to Mackinac, there are applications at the Scout Service Center and on the Council's website. The application and a \$50.00 deposit will be collected at the first meeting January 30 at 2 pm at the American Legion on Sixth Street in Port Huron. The second meeting has been changed to Sunday, February 13. If you have any questions, call Kirk Seibert at 810-765-2892.

## Pancake & Sausage Brunch Sponsored by the Mackinac Troop

**Sunday, April 10, 2011 8 am to 1 pm**  
**American Legion**

**6th & Wall, Port Huron, MI**

**Adults: \$5.00 Seniors 55 & Up \$4.00**  
**Kids: 6-12 \$3.00 Kids 5-under Free**

Come and help support the Mackinac Island Service Troop 168 and enjoy a great brunch! For more information, call Kirk Seibert 810-765-2891



# Boy Scout News

## Spring Camporee "Scout the Environment"

**Dates:** April 15-17, 2011

**Place:** Silver Trails Scout Reservation

There will be several merit badges for Boy Scouts to work on. The Webelos may earn the Forester or Craftsman Activity Badge. More information will be available soon.



## Go Polar! Get Your Chill On!

Gettin' your Chill On? Be that Bear! It's time for Polar Bear in the Blue Water Council! From December 1 to March 19, get outside and stay outside for at least 24 hours and earn this big bad dude! Forms are available in the Scout Service Center and on [www.bwbsa.org](http://www.bwbsa.org). Patches are available for \$2.00 each.



## February Boy Scout Roundtable

The Boy Scout Roundtables have been a bit light the last few months, but we are expecting a big turnout for the February 18 Roundtable. I have been saving up one of my favorite topics for this Roundtable at Klondike North Friday night. The time will be at 7:30 to give a bit more time for the Scoutmasters to get camps set and settled in so you can make the roundtable. The topic is a fun one... "PATCH COLLECTING AND TRADING" ... So be sure to bring your SPL and a Patrol Leader or two, and most importantly, don't forget to bring some patches to trade and show off. I know some of you "Old Timers" have some vintage patches to show off and tell stories about. I'll be bringing a few hundred myself. Who knows, maybe the Patch Collecting Roundtable can become a tradition for Klondike North?

*Chris Knuth, Boy Scout Roundtable Commish...*

## 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 January to March so you need to sign up now so we can be fully prepared to do your election. We would like all troops to contact us even if you don't have anyone eligible because we would like to give the Camp Promotion Reports. You can sign up for your election by contacting me at [allen.matt.12@gmail.com](mailto:allen.matt.12@gmail.com) or by calling me at 810-985-5922.

Thanks,

*Matthew Allen*



## The Amazing Klondike Race 2011

The 2011 Klondike event will take on some new challenges and happen February 18-20. This year's theme is "The Amazing Klondike 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. Many challenges will face the teams as they travel that will require using your Boy Scout skills. The list of items to carry on the sled is very important. 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 trail 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 2 adults 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! Early registration by February 11 is \$10 per Scout, \$5 for all adults and Webelos. T-shirts are available and must be ordered by February 11. From February 12-18, the fee is \$15 per Scout. For additional information or questions, contact Mike Timm 810-531-4338 or email [michaeltimm@comcast.net](mailto:michaeltimm@comcast.net). Stop by or call the Scout Service Center to register. Fliers are also available on our website at [www.bwbsa.org](http://www.bwbsa.org).



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

**Troop 169**  
Cole Johnston

**Troop 245**  
Steven Brickel

**Troop 322**  
Kyle Kukuk

**Troop 333**  
Corey Kursinsky  
Aaron Morden

Eagle Scout Award Kits are 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

## **New Tour Plan Replaces Tour Permit**

Effective March 1, 2011, what are currently known as local and national tour permits will be superseded by what will be called the tour plan. (The online tour permit system will be suspended.) Units complete this form when planning for local, national or international adventure. The plan helps ensure the unit is properly prepared, that qualified and trained leadership is in place, and that the right equipment is available for the adventure.

The tour plan is a checklist for best practices to be prepared for safe and fun adventure. The plan helps to organize safe appropriate transportation to and from an event, and defines driver qualifications and minimum limits of insurance coverage for drivers and vehicles used to transport participants.

For more information and a copy of the Tour Plan, check our website at [www.bwcbasa.org](http://www.bwcbasa.org).

## **Leader Training for Everyone**

**March 26, 2011** All Cub Scout positions

**March 26, 2011** Den Chiefs

**May 13-15, 2011** Scoutmasters and Assistants

Questions? Call our trainers! Contact Cub Scout Chair Dawn Altstadt 810-392-2805 or Boy Scout Chair Dave Zarling 810-987-0226. Go to [www.bwcbasa.org](http://www.bwcbasa.org) to take the training online.

## **Black River Basin District 100 & 300 Units**

It's a new calendar year! Let's make it a great one! Call me with your ideas to increase the communication, progress and success of our district. Join our District team or Commissioner staff - opportunities await!

*Cyndi Jagodzinski*

## **Spring Cleanup at Silver Trails**

Looking for a free weekend of camping at Silver Trails? Plan on working with your unit at the 2011 Camp Cleanup scheduled for **Saturday, April 2**. Bring your work clothes, gloves and any tools you think you will need. Remember Silver Trails is your camp, so we should all chip in and help. Free camping at the cabins or campsites are on a first come basis at Silver Trails, no reservation will be taken in advance. Check-in is at 9 a.m. with lunch at noon. Work will continue from 1-3 pm. There will be a list of work details including: painting the shower houses, repairing latrines, campsite cleanup, and tree removal. A patch will be provided for all participants. Jerry is bringing back the Silver Trails Service Award which requires a minimum of 20 hours of labor at camp. Any questions call the Scout Service Center or Ranger Jerry at 810-327-6685. See you all there!



## **Wanna Be A Rocket Scientist?**

Here is your chance to get ready. Our Rocket Rally happens every 5 years. This year it is **Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14**. Scouts can complete their launch requirement for the Space Exploration Merit Badge and Webelos can join in the launch fun as well.



Lock in the dates for your unit's calendar and use the cold weeks ahead to build some kits or scratch build rockets. Dads and Moms are welcome to build rockets also. There will be some awards for various categories such as "Funkiest Flyer"!

Details will be mailed to units soon. It's not too early to start designing and building and to meet the other merit badge requirements.

See you on the launch pad!



## **Black River Basin District Advancements**

Cubmasters, Scoutmasters and Advancement Coordinators... The Black River Basin District Committee is taking a look at the advancement of our troops and packs. We have noticed some discrepancies in our reports, we think, and would like to make sure that our troops and packs are advancing in a timely progression. The best policy for advancing is immediate recognition for the Scouts, if possible. This will help keep the Scouts active and enthusiastic to continue with the program as well as encourage the other Scouts to pursue their advancement. There is a great feeling when you receive a Rank or Merit Badge that you have earned and worked hard for in front of your peers. We know that Courts of Honor or Blue and Gold Banquets are great places for this but it is not the only time the Scouts can receive their badges. So please get those reports into the office and the badges back to the boys as soon as possible. We as a committee are getting a copy of all of your advancement reports to compare with computer printed reports to make sure records are correct. If as a troop or pack you are having difficulty in this area, feel free contact your Unit Commissioner or District Executive for help. There are many of us willing to help you with ideas and experience to make this easier for your troop or pack if need be....

Thank you for your time and remember FUN and advancement is the key to Scouting...

*Laura Knuth*

*Black River Basin District Advancement Committee*

## **Hunter Education Course Sponsored by the DNR at Silver Trails**

**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2011 from 6-9 pm-Introduction  
Saturday, May 19, 2011 from 9 am-5 pm-Classes on firearm and bow safety, black powder, wilderness survival and more  
Sunday, May 20, 2011 from 1-5pm-Review, test and practice shooting

Must attend all three days to receive Hunter Safety Certificate.  
**Cost:** \$10 per person includes book, lunch on Saturday, certificate and patch.

Class will be held in the Nature Center at Silver Trails and is limited to 30 students. Pre-registration is required. Anyone 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

**To register, call Jerry Deeg at 810-327-6685.**

## Commissioner Corner

In the Commissioner Service Manual, published by the BSA in 1963, an excellent description is given of a neighborhood or unit commissioner.

First, the commissioner deals with no more than three units. The primary job is to help these units succeed. The neighborhood commissioner is a close friend of the unit. What things do we expect from a friend? The following items might make up a good list. A friend has something to offer you. At times the friend may stimulate or soothe you. The friend helps to build confidence in you. During difficult times, you can count on your friend. You enjoy being around your friend. You like to see your friend coming for a visit. You can talk freely with a friend. A friend is a person with whom you can be sincere. These are all good qualities of a friend. They also happen to be good qualities of a neighborhood commissioner.

What other qualities should a good neighborhood commissioner have? The list might read as follows. The person must believe in the Scouting Program as being beneficial for youth. The person must have personal experience with Scouting that can be passed on to leaders in the unit that is being served. The commissioner must maintain close and frequent contact with the unit and its leaders. The commissioner must be willing to take the time to stay current with what is going on in Scouting, both nationally and locally, and be willing to pass this information on to unit leaders. The person must be a good listener but must also be able to tactfully express any concerns that they possess. The unit commissioner should attend at least one unit meeting every month. The commissioner should also attempt to attend the monthly Council wide meeting for all unit commissioners where they will be kept up date on the latest information.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for every unit to have a good commissioner to support them! It is worth repeating that a well planned program, delivered by a trained leader, with a strong outdoor program, supported by a good commissioner, attracts and retains youth! The Blue Water Council is looking for experienced Scouters willing to invest some of their valuable time and effort to assist Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops. If you are interested, please contact the Blue Water Council office!

On March 5<sup>th</sup> we will be having a Commissioner Retreat at Silver Trails Scout Camp. If you are interested in becoming a neighborhood commissioner, this event would be a great opportunity to learn more about the job. There will also be a Commissioner College in Troy, Michigan April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The art of Commissioner Science is studied in great detail at this event. Contact the Scout Service Center for further information.

**Steve McPherson, Council Commissioner**

## Calling All Commissioners!

Two important dates to mark on your calendar! **March 5** is our annual Commissioner's Retreat at Silver Trails. Great topics and speakers! Details will be emailed out directly to you. Area 2 College of Commissioner Science is **April 1-2**. Do you need your Bachelor's or Master's or are you going all the way for that Doctorate Degree? No matter what position you have, there is a course just for you. The flier is available at the Blue Water Council website [www.bwcbasa.org](http://www.bwcbasa.org) or by going to [www.glscouting.org](http://www.glscouting.org) and clicking on Commissioner College.



## Scout Shop News

It's that time again, Blue and Gold. The Scout Shop has all your advancement, recognition and supplies. If you know that you are going to need large quantities of an item, please let me know so I can make sure to have it in stock. You can always call or email ahead your order, and it will be ready when you arrive. If you are unable to make it to the Scout Shop, call, email or fax your order, and we can ship it to you.

We have knives and books just to name a few things available. Whether shopping for a gift for your Scout or Leader, we have something for everyone. The Pinewood Derby kits are available, as well as other new accessories. Call and preorder to make sure they are available when you come in. Check out the new T-shirts, caps and jeans available; t-shirts are just \$6.99, jeans \$9.99, hats \$12.99 and \$14.99. Get them while they last!!

Reminder the Scout Shop is open the second Wednesday of each month until 7 p.m. Note to leaders - all the leader books and materials have been relocated to the Resource Room for your convenience. Now you can see what materials are available to you, as well as check your unit's mail all in the same place.



## Soldiers-Thanks For The Popcorn

During our popcorn sale, you had the opportunity to make a military donation to send popcorn to our men and women serving overseas. We have received several thank you notes. *"Thank you very much for the popcorn, it was like getting a little piece of home here overseas."* *"It means a lot to receive gifts like these...I shared the popcorn with my team. It's nice to know that we are not forgotten and people do think of us and pray for us every day."*

Thank you to everyone who made a military donation for popcorn to be sent overseas to our troops.

## 2011 Merit Badge Counselor List Ready

A current 2011 merit badge counselor list is available in the Scout Service Center Resource Room. New merit badge counselors are always welcome. Application forms are available in the Scout Service Center. If you are not already registered in a leader position, an adult application must accompany the merit badge application. All merit badge counselors must now have Youth Protection Training.

## It's February Charter Turn-In Time

Every unit needs to re-charter by February 11. **Remember: even if you are re-chartering online, the Council copy with all proper signatures and fees is due to the Scout Service Center by February 11!**

*All Charters Due by February 11, 2011!*

## 2010 Eagle Scouts to be Honored at Annual Dinner

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest rank achieved by a Boy Scout. To earn this award, Boy Scouts must earn at least 21 merit badges, serve in a leadership role, and plan an Eagle Scout leadership service project. The young men who earned this prestigious award in 2010 will be honored to recognize their achievement at the Blue Water Council Annual Dinner on April 11. The Blue Water Council had 38 Scouts earn their Eagle Scout Award in 2010. Dinner for the Eagle Scouts and their inspirers is free. The cost of the dinner for others is \$17 each. You can sponsor an Eagle Scout for \$35 to help pay for his and his inspirer's dinner. Please get your reservations into the Scout Service Center by April 6. A letter will be sent out to all the 2010 Eagle Scouts.



## Three-Rivers District Quality Units

Congratulations to the following Three-Rivers District units for achieving the Centennial Quality Unit Award in 2010!  
**Packs:** 200, 216, 222, 226, 238, 241, 242, 245, 246, 247, 257, 261, 296

**Troops:** 205, 216, 245, 294, 296 **Crew:** 245

As a Quality Unit, these units exceeded the goals for basic adult training, membership retention, youth and adult recruiting, rank advancement, youth participation, outdoor and group activities, program plan and financial budgeting. Each unit should be very proud of their efforts and successes of the program they provide each and every day to the Scouts in their communities. A special thanks goes out to ALL youth and adult members for their participation and dedication to continuous growth and improvement.



## Centennial Quality Units Make a Centennial Quality District!

Congratulations to all of the following Black River Basin District units for working so hard to meet your 2010 goals and helping us to make Centennial Quality District at the same time! It took everyone doing their part to make it happen. All of us working together as a district including Den Leaders, Committee Chairs, Scoutmasters, District Committee, Commissioners, Cubmasters, Tiger and Webelos Leaders! We all did it together by running great den and unit programs, getting those boys outside and teaching them Scout skills, growing our membership, starting new units, selling lots of popcorn and helping with Friends of Scouting! You deserve all the recognition because you made it happen! I could not be more honored to be your Black River Basin District Executive.

*Cyndi Jagodzinski*

**Packs:** 102, 111, 112, 113, 130, 132, 141, 171, 178, 320, 322, 328, 333, 335

**Troops:** 100, 104, 106, 111, 112, 132, 141, 146, 169, 178, 320, 322, 333

**Crews:** 106, 112, 113, 132 **Ship:** 109

## Florida Sea Base 2011 Keys Adventure-Islamorada Island July 31-August 6, 2011

**Fun in the Sun! Join us in the adventure!**

Let's go sailing, kayaking, deep sea fishing, snorkeling and camping on primitive Big Munson Island, visiting Key West and much, much more! How about sleeping in a hammock hanging from a Gumbo tree!

If you haven't signed up yet, then you need to join us! **Our next meeting is Sunday, February 13** at Silver Trails Scout Reservation at 11 a.m. If you are even thinking about going, then come to this meeting for more information.

The Blue Water Council invites registered youth and adults to participate in the Florida Sea Base, Keys Adventure program in 2011. **There are only a few youth positions and two adult positions still available!** All youth applying must be 14 by September 1, 2011 and not older than 20 years of age and registered in a Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship. All adults must be at least 21 years old to apply and registered through the Blue Water Council.



Don't miss out on this Awesome Opportunity!  
See you February 13<sup>th</sup>!

Applications are available at [bwbsa.org](http://bwbsa.org) or at the Scout Service Center. For more information contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at 810-982-9529 or [cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org](mailto:cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org)

## Philmont Scout Ranch 2011 High Adventure Backpacking Expedition

Explore the high country in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico! Participate in activities such as archaeology, backpacking, camping, rock climbing, fishing, mining, Indian Lore, conservation, forestry and so much more!



Registered youth and adults are invited to this great adventure from **June 18 thru July 3**. The cost is \$1,425 which covers all Philmont fees, travel, materials and food. Applications and more information is available on our website [www.bwbsa.org](http://www.bwbsa.org) or contact Terry Green at 810-385-7669.

## Scouting for Food Results for 2010

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's Scouting for Food with the Salvation Army. Even in these difficult times, you did it again! You collected even more food to help your neighbors in need. The total number of bags collected was 3,676! That is 431 more bags! Good job everyone!

**Packs:** 101, 102, 111, 123, 141, 154, 169, 178, 201, 216, 246  
**Troops:** 100, 101, 104, 106, 111, 141, 146, 168, 169, 178, 216, 320

# From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



Scanning the “to do” list on my desk, I was alarmed when I saw a line that read, “call Ranger Jerry about speaking at the OA Dinner Meeting”. I was preparing to crumple the page from my note pad and reveal a new one when I saw it. All the other items on the page were crossed out, indicating they were complete, but not that one!

I had promised to call Jerry back in 24 hours to let him know if I could speak at the upcoming OA Dinner Meeting. Two weeks had passed. I hadn't responded. Boy, was my face red!

I called Jerry right away and apologized for my forgetfulness. (Actually, within hours of the original phone conversation, I had taken a spill on the ice and sprained my ankle but good. My focus had switched to “me, myself and I”, and Jerry's request was quickly forgotten!) Jerry accepted my apology in his usual, quiet fashion and followed by asking not if I could speak, rather, he asked, what I would be talking about!

We chatted for a bit and decided that “planning” would be appropriate. It seemed a likely topic for a group like the OA or Scouts in general. Planning is something we have to learn to do and Lord knows, I have lots of examples of my own poor planning and several examples when, in the company of others more talented than I, good planning resulted in great experiences.

As an example of poor planning, I spoke about my early days of paddling Michigan's rivers. My canoeing buddy, Tom, and I had opted to paddle the mighty Pine River which flows out of Tustin, near Cadillac, Michigan. Billed as a premium paddling river, we decided on Thursday to leave Friday for a weekend of paddling.

Planning consisted of a trip to the grocery store for some camp food and taking a quick glance at a guide to the Pine River in the book, Canoeing Michigan Rivers. Having loaded the boats and our young sons in the truck, we headed to Tustin, giving little importance to the week of rain the area had suffered.

We wanted to paddle as much of the river as possible, so we chose an access point so far upstream that the book warned that there is often not enough water to float a canoe at that location. Well, suffice it to say, the water was incredibly high. The river was roaring past us as we loaded the boats. We still didn't “connect the dots”. It was all good or so we thought!

We hadn't gone a half a mile when we came around a sharp bend in the river and there it was. A tree had fallen across the river and formed an impressive barrier. It was half “strainer” and half “sweeper”. At the speed we were traveling, we had about five seconds to react. Needless to say, my canoe and the tree did battle, and the tree won.

Having been “spit out” of our boat, my son and I scrambled from the water and onto shore. Tom and his son somehow made it past by staying to the inside of the bend and working their way through the tree top. We sat and watched helplessly as my 17' Grumman folded around the tree that lay across the river. The bow had managed to snag a tree that was standing out over the river from shore. The stern, some 8' under water, was still traveling downstream! The midships were braced solidly against the tree which lay at the water's surface. (The sounds of my shiny Grumman, as the river folded it around the tree, still echo in my mind.)

This was poor planning at its best. The only thing we can be proud of is that everyone had a PFD on. Even that would be little consolation had any of us been trapped against the strainer, or worse, between the boat and the strainer. We had made it through a truly dangerous situation and learned more lessons that I can include in this writing. We have the Great Master to thank for that!



In contrast, for my talk, I chose to reflect on one of the best Scouting Outings I was ever blessed to be part of. The Troop went to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario for a week of canoeing. We planned for months the route, the food, the patrols, the equipment, the transportation and every detail of each. Everyone participated. That made the planning as much a part of the trip as the trip itself.



I took a cedar strip canoe I had built. Both of my sons went. It was a perfect trip in every way, until, sitting with Bill Barden, Bill Tack, and five Boy Scouts at sun up, we were blessed to watch a moose and her calf wander past our camp, about 50' off shore. The perfect trip had gotten a little better!

All the planning added an extra dimension to the trip. Everyone was involved. Everyone was an owner of a “better than perfect” Boy Scout Outing! That was the message I attempted to deliver to the OA. I hope they enjoyed my babbling as much as I enjoyed their fellowship!

This is the time of year to get your Troop together and do planning for that great trip this summer. Get out the maps, share the books and have some fun putting it all together. Whether it's a day hike with a Cub Den, a high adventure trip with Boy Scouts or a Venture Crew outing, start planning now. Get everyone involved. The blessings will be countless, the memories . . . priceless.

*Steve Down*

## 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

## February 8, 2011 Scouting's 101st Anniversary

Remember **Scout Sunday, February 6, 2011**. Have your Scouts wear their uniform to their church or go as a group.

You could also participate in the service in some way.



*Lord Baden Powell  
Founder Boy Scouts 1910*



**The BRIDGE**  
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WATER  
COUNCIL

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Port Huron, MI 48060

Non-Profit  
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**February**

- 2 Commissioner Meeting - 7 pm SSC
- 5 Cub Winter Fun Day - STSR
- 6 Scout Sunday at your own church
- 8 101st Anniversary of Boy Scouts**
- 9 Cub Scout Roundtable - 7 pm SSC
- 11 All Charters Due**
- 12 OA Lodge Leadership Meeting
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting
- 16 District Committee Meetings
- 18 Boy Scout Roundtable at Klondike North
- 18-20 Klondike North - STSR
- 21 **President's Day-SSC Closed**
- 22 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 28 Archery Committee Meeting - 7 pm SSC

**March**

- 3 FOS Report Meeting
- 5 Commissioners Retreat - STSR 9 am - 4:30 pm
- 9 CS & BS Roundtables
- 12 O/A Membership Meeting
- 14 Executive Board Meeting
- 16 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 18-20 Hunter Safety Class - STSR
- 26 Cub Scout Leader Training - STSR
- 29 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 30 Properties Committee Meeting - SSC 7 pm



**You Have Mail**

A reminder that all units & commissioners have a mail folder in the resource room at the Scout Service Center. Be sure to check it often.



**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

**3-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-CSRT Team

**Scout Service Center Staff 810-982-9529**

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