

The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA June - July 2011

924 7th Street., Port Huron MI 48060

1-810-982-9529

1-888-98SCOUT www.bwcbasa.org

Editor: Judy McCarthy



From Our Scout Executive

There is a lot of speculation about the future of the Blue Water Council and Boy Scouting in the state of Michigan. I wanted to take this opportunity to help clarify some items of interest. There is a group of volunteers, including volunteers from the Blue Water Council, who are looking at making changes to the Boy Scout structure. This is referred to as the Area Project.

Their mission is: To design and recommend to the Regional Leadership an improved Scouting organization for Area 2.

Their vision is that: We will have the ideal structure to support a vital, growing Scouting program for youth, families, charter organizations, units and communities within Area 2 that will remain sustainable through the 21st century.

This group has been reviewing all aspects of Scouting for the last eight months and the goal is that a final recommendation will be made to the Regional office in September. We will have a presentation from them at the Grand Cookout on July 11th, everyone is invited to attend. You can also find out more information on the website which is bsaareaproject.org. These are the best two places to get the real up-to-date information about the Area Project.

Please remember that Scouting really happens at the unit level, and one of the major driving factors of this project is to provide better service to our Scouting Units. No matter the outcome of the project, Scouting's core values will remain the same. There are a lot of good things happening in the Blue Water Council, we had a great spring Camporee, a fun and exciting Dad and Lad and we are looking forward to an excellent Support a Scout Luncheon. Programs like these will continue into the future. Remember what you do for Scouting is important.

Paul W. Schwartz

Support A Scout Luncheon

The Seventh Annual Support a Scout Luncheon is Wednesday, June 8 at Alexander's Banquet Center in Marysville. A minimum donation of \$100 for the Support A Scout Luncheon will secure your seat. Your donation includes lunch with our guest speaker.

Our speaker this year is Brad Bates, the Director of Athletics at Miami University. Brad is a 1977 Port Huron High School graduate. He was a walk-on defensive back for Michigan from 1977-81 where he played for Wolverine head football coach Bo Schembechler. For more information on the luncheon, call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529.

Two Dates for Annual Program Kickoff

Boy Scouts, Wednesday August 17, 2011

Cub Scouts, Wednesday August 24, 2011

It's that time of year again for each unit to begin planning for the next Scouting season. Funding, coordinating and planning your unit's events and recruiting new Scouts are important. To facilitate your efforts, the Blue Water Council is once again hosting the **Annual Program Kickoff** which will begin at 6 pm. Important information to help you run an effective program will be shared at this event. As a result, your unit Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Advisor, Committee Chairman and Committee Members should plan on attending. Check the Blue Water Council Webpage at www.bwcbasa.org for any updates.

Where: First United Methodist Church
828 Lapeer, Port Huron

What to bring:

Your unit representatives

The date for your Family Friends of Scouting Presentation

The name of your Popcorn Kernel

A tentative date for your unit's fall open house or roundup

A unit budget

The email address and phone number of your unit leaders

Please RSVP to the Scout Service Center 810-982-9529 by Monday, August 15 with the names of those who will be representing your unit.

Mark Your Calendars....and we will see you then!

Ahoy...Its Time to Start Sailing

The Blue Water Squadron sailboats are going into the water. They should be ready to use in the first full week in June. Each of the 4 Squadron Ships has their own assigned boats and all Sea Scouts share in the use of SSS (Sea Scout Ship) Caprice, a 40 foot sloop rigged sailboat. Caprice and the assigned boats based on the Black River in Port Huron plan to do sail training on Tuesday evenings starting June 7 about 4:30 pm and going until dark. Members of all four Ships are welcome to come race this summer when Sea Scouts race Caprice on Wednesdays and Sundays in the Port Huron Yacht Club races. We do take a break for several weeks around the Port Huron to Mackinaw Race on July 23 this year. On Wednesdays, Caprice leaves PHYC promptly at 5 pm and returns as dark falls. It is necessary for you to schedule your intent to race on Caprice with Trevor Floyd (810-488-1380) at least 2 days before racing so you can be added to the sailing roster in the Float Plan, Cruise Plan and Tour Plan that must be filed with the Blue Water Council office before we leave the dock. It's a good idea to come for a training session on Tuesday before racing on Wednesday if you have not previously sailed. Commitments for multiple days racing will be given preference and then it's on a first come first served basis. All Blue Water Council registered Scouts who are at least 13 and finished with the 8th grade are welcome to come sailing and are encouraged to start on the Tuesday training before going sailboat racing. Scouters over 21 are also welcome to join the Scouts and Sea Scouts and learn about the thrill and adventure of sailing. *Wayne Hastings, Sea Scout Chairman*





Cub Scout News

Thanks to all Volunteers for Dad & Lad

Thank you to all of those that participated in this year's Dad and Lad, Safari Hunt at Silver Trails! The weather was beautiful and the rain held off for an exciting weekend of fun filled activities! A special thanks to all who helped to staff the event and make it such a great weekend! We hope to see you at Dad and Lad again next year!

**Jason Markel and Emily Mason,
Co-chairs and Korissa Kramer**



Scouts Watch Animal Show



Webelos Weekend is June 24-26, 2011

This is the perfect event for all your Webelos! Bring them out to learn what a Boy Scout really does! They will learn Scout skills and what the 'Out' in Scouting is all about. Cooking, camping, knots, GPS and more! Mark your calendar for June 24-26, a weekend just for Webelos! This is for boys entering fourth and fifth grades in the fall. Flyers are available at www.bwcbasa.org and at the Scout Service Center



Mom & Me Needs You!

Here it comes! Ocean Explosion is right around the corner! We're suiting up for this fun sea themed event! Sharks and Dolphins and Starfish beware, the Blue Water Council Cub Scouts are prepared!

Call Cyndi at 810-982-9529 to help staff this exciting event.

Scoutreach News

The Scoutreach program is quickly drawing to a close. The Cub Scouts in Packs 112, 113, 241, 242 and 247 had a great year. We did an in-school archery program, pinewood derby, built bird houses and had a lot of fun. We will be doing mini-day camps this summer, if anyone is interested in helping please give me a call at 810-982-9529 or email jerry.deeg@scouting.org. I hope everyone has a safe and great summer. We'll see you at camp!



Ranger Jerry, Scoutreach Coordinator

Cub Scout Roundtable

We only part to meet again. Our Roundtable has come to a close but not before some exciting awards and a special good bye! Keith Graham won Most Outstanding Scouter Attendance Award and Pack 245 received Most Outstanding Pack Attendance Award. These award winners now have their name engraved on a plaque that will hang in the Scout Service Center. We also had to say farewell to one of our Roundtable Commissioners, Stacy Dasher. Stacy will be moving across country but will forever have footprints here in the Blue Water Council. How lucky we are to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. So until our next meeting September 14, we wish you all well and a great summer. Happy Scouting!

Joni MacLean, Kathy Graham, Stacy Dasher

Cub Scout Den Leader Training

Training for all Cub Scout Den Leaders will be offered on June 11 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Scout Service Center. For more information contact Dawn Almstadt at 810-392-2805 or dawn1965@frontier.com or check our website bwcbasa.org for a flyer.

**Earn the National Summertime Pack Award.
Have your pack do an activity during June, July
and August to qualify.**

Boy Scout News

Introducing the Newest Den Chiefs of the Blue Water Council



Troop 200 - Robert Nutaitis Jr.
Troop 296 - Craig Linden, Brian Lowe, William Reichle
Troop 322 - Bailey Miller
Troop 320 - Cody Hulverson, Cooper Hulverson, Nico Hulverson, Andrew Meade, Darrin Tenbusch, Russell Tenbusch, Joe Wentzel, Mike Wentzel

If Wolf, Bear and Webelos den leaders would like help with their den, there are trained Scouts ready to help you.

For youth wanting to be a Den Chief here is the suggested requirements for attending Den Chief Training. While there are no specific age or rank requirements to attend this Boy Scout training, a Scoutmaster should follow some basic guidelines. A Scout should be registered with a troop for at least one year to learn how to be a Boy Scout and have the maturity to interact with Cub Scouts as a leader, not a peer. In most cases, first year Boy Scouts need time to grow and develop themselves before leading younger Scouts. It is at the Scoutmaster's discretion as to whether or not a Scout is ready, but it is recommended to wait at least a year. The Scoutmaster must sign the training registration to give consent that the Scout is ready for this challenge.

Boy Scout Roundtables

Thank you to all of our troops who attended the roundtables this year. Chris Knuth did an awesome job his first year and hopes to see even more people next year. He had many valuable topics and some fun ones too, everything from survival bracelets to cobbler. Come join us and bring your leaders and SPLs! We will be adding Dave Zarling to our team in the fall too! Don't miss it!

Boy Scouts Earn the Cycling Merit Badge

Mike Timm, Scoutmaster of Troop 104 will be offering the Cycling Merit Badge to all Scouts this summer. One of the requirements is to complete a total of 7 rides; two each of 10, 15, 25 miles and one 50 mile ride. This is a fun badge to do and a great way to keep your troop active and together in the summer months, please come and join him. Rides will be on Tuesday nights beginning June 21. For more information contact Mike at michaeltimm@comcast.net.



Order of the Arrow News

All troops who have not had OA elections need to have them before the Fall Conclave. If your troop has not had an OA election, contact Matthew Allen at allen.matt.12@gmail.com. We would like all troops to contact us even if you don't have anybody eligible because we would like to give a Camp Promotion Report.



WWW, Matthew Allen, Chickagami 180, Lodge Chief

Scouts Earn Merit Badges at Spring Camporee

A huge thank you to Keith Graham and his staff for running a spectacular event in April! Many Scouts participated in one of our biggest Spring Camporees to date! It was Merit Badges galore and a lot of fun and learning to go with them. Thank you to all of our troops for coming out to help make it such a success. There were 40 Webelos working on Forester or Craftsman and 247 Boy Scouts working on 8 different merit badges including Art, Aviation, Environmental Science, Fishing, Forestry, Leatherwork, Woodcarving and Photography.



Forestry Merit Badge

Florida Sea Base Adventure July 31-August 6, 2011

The Blue Water Council invites registered youth and adults to participate in the Florida Sea Base, Keys Adventure Program in 2011. Sign up today! Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity! Applications are available at www.bwcbasa.org or at the Scout Service Center. For more information, contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at 810-982-9529 or cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org.



Black River Basin District News

Spring Round-ups are in full swing! If your pack wants to recruit new Scouts to share in your summer fun, then contact Cyndi at the Scout Service Center ASAP! Thank you Commissioners, District Committee and all unit leadership for a great start to 2011! Membership is up and we haven't even started fall round-ups! Good job Packs, Troops and Crews! Get all your applications in for new Scouts who just joined or call me to pick them up.

Wanted BSA or Red Cross Trained Lifeguards

If you are a certified lifeguard and would like to help the council, please let us know. There are Scouts that need swim tests for camp and events that call for lifeguards.



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

Troop 101
Sylas Stone

Troop 216
Michael McClellan
Samuel Philp

Troop 168
Brant Zimmer

Troop 223
Thomas Casaceli
Andre Wassenberg

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.

News for All..

Silver Trails Archery Shoots in June, August & September

One of our best-loved and most fun-filled fundraisers is the Silver Trails Archery Shoot that is sponsored and staffed by the Silver Trails Archery Committee. Three archery shoots occur during the year and have developed into some of the best in the State of Michigan. These shoots are open to the public, both adult and youth, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. These are well attended events that require a substantial amount of work by many dedicated volunteers. Dates for the three shoots are as follows.



- Shoot #1 June 18 & 19**
- Shoot #2 August 6 & 7**
- Shoot #3 September 10 & 11**

The above dates represent weekends with the following times for each day.

- Saturday 9 am to 5 pm**
- Sunday 8 am to 3 pm**

Each Saturday there will be medals awarded to all shooters. Sunday 1st, 2nd & 3rd place trophies will be given out. **There will be an all-you-can-eat "Hunter's Breakfast" available each day for \$5.00 per person.** Two different courses use 3D targets. Cost per course:

Adults (13 and over)	\$8.00
Youth	\$5.00
Children (8 and under)	\$2.00

For additional information call:

Diane Hazzard at 810-304-0823

Register at Silver Trails on the day of the event.

Silver Trails Camp News

There have been a lot of requests from units to do service projects here at camp. In order to serve the needs of our camp and all of its Scouters STSR will provide each district committee with a list of available service projects, as well as a list of items needed at camp. Coming soon will be the new STSR education & training center. There



is a lot of work needed to get this building ready to use. The new bridge is near completion, the old bridge will be taken down and we will try and salvage as much lumber as we can for other service projects here at camp. The chapel has had some recent updates. The Order of the Arrow cleaned up the area as well as started a third row of seating. This will be another major project that needs to be completed. The switchback to the Black River is in need of repair; recently a generous donation of steel fence posts will provide adequate posts for the new rope railing that needs to be installed. This area



also needs gravel repair and dead tree removal. Please look to your district committee for all service projects or give me a call 810-327-6685 for the complete list.

Ranger Jerry

Silver Beaver Awards For 2011

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest award a Council's volunteers can bestow on a fellow volunteer. It is given for distinguished service to youth. At the Blue Water Council's Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner on April 11 the nomination of two deserving volunteers was announced. David C. Whipple, Executive Board Member and former board president was presented the Silver Beaver Award at the dinner. Kevin Koveck, Scout-



David C. Whipple

master of Troop 245 and Scoutmaster for the 2010 Jamboree Troop was presented the Silver Beaver Award at Troop 245's Court of Honor. We thank both men for their service to the Blue Water Council, Boy Scouts of America and congratulate them for receiving this honor.



Jack Hood & Kevin Koveck



Larry Yokom, Robin Yokom, Laura Garofalo, Randy Smith, Stacy Dasher

District Award of Merit Recipients

Awarded the District Award of Merit for the Three Rivers District this year, was Larry Yokom and Robin Yokom. Both Larry and Robin have been involved with Pack 296 and Troop 296 for over 15 years and continue to make an impact on the lives of Scouts today. Larry is currently Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 296 and Robin is the Committee Chair for the troop. In addition to those positions, both Robin and Larry are Unit Commissioners for Packs 257 and 261.

Congratulations to the 2011 recipients from the Black River Basin District! This award is very much deserved for all the dedication that these wonderful people give to Scouting! Please join me in congratulating Randy Smith, Laura Garofalo and Stacy Dasher! Randy is an Assistant Scoutmaster in Memphis Troop 245 and the Black River Basin District Commissioner as well as being heavily involved in the Order of the Arrow. Laura is a committee member in Lexington for the Pack, Troop and Ship along with serving on the District Committee. Stacy is a Den Leader in Pack 111 and on the Cub Scout Roundtable staff. All have helped immensely with everything asked of them.

Thank you for your time, effort and service to the Scouts in our district and council! These individuals contribute greatly to Scouting.

Adult Leader Award Recipients

Cub Scouter Award

Dawn Almstadt
Erin Roy



Tiger Cub Den Leader Award

Emily Mason

Webelos Den Leader Award

Carmella Falecki

Venturing Leadership Award

Tim Meno

Scoutmaster Unit Leader Award of Merit

Tom Jobbitt

District Committee Key Award

Dawn Almstadt

Sea Scout Adult Leader Training Award

Wayne Hastings

New Blue Water Council

Executive Officers Elected

At the Blue Water Council Annual Meeting and Recognition dinner on April 11, the following Executive Officers were elected to serve for the July 2011 thru June 2012 year.

President - Robert Beedon

Immediate Past President - Earl E. DesJardins

Commissioner - Steve McPherson

Treasurer - Mike Turnbull

VP Administration - Keith Klug

VP Finance - Michael J. Whaling

VP Membership - Timothy Meno (*deceased*)

VP Properties - Gary Beem

VP Program - George Borst

National Council Representative - Michael J. Whaling

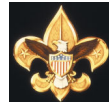
Black River Basin District Chairman - Terry Green

Three Rivers District Chairman - Dan Steinmetz

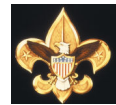
Other Executive Boards Members elected were: John Adair, Peter J. Cangemi, Orville Collins, David Corby, Robert Coulter, Marty Doorn, Steven Down, Walter Fitzgerald, Michael Glenn, Jerry Grace, Wayne Hastings, Jack Hood, Ian Johnson, Karen Lord, Joseph McCarthy, Donald McColman, Franklin Mortimer III, Eugene Mozal, Markus Schulz, Dr. Thomas Simmons, Doug Soule, LeRoy Stevens, Barb Stimpson, David Whipple, Rita Whitney, Robert Wiley.



2010 Eagle Scouts Honored at Annual Dinner



MEMORIALS



Benjamin Thornton

Joseph Thornton
Delores Thornton

Timothy Meno

Stephen Balmer
Bill & Jane Barden
Robert & Ann Beedon
Martha Benedict
Dave & Denise Brooks
Steven & Diane Cooper
Robert & Carol Dalrymple
Carol Fitz
Marion Forrest
Alan & Fay Frost
Thomas & Christine Gaffney
William & Nancy Gilbert
Chris & Cindy Graw
Wayne, Ellen & Matthew Haney
Thomas & Dorothy Harris
Katherine Holth
Cecilia & Dennis Kearns
John & Nancy Kelley
Fred & Marianne Kemp
Elizabeth King
Wendy & Larry Krabach
Rev. Robert & Karen Kreger
Teena Lashbrook
Renita Linkner
Gordon & Doreen MacDonald
Virginia McNabb
Eugene Mozal
Christine & Douglas Newberry
Sandra Oldford
Sue Ann Ostrom
William & Patricia Philp
Magaly Rodriguez
Linda Slaughter
Junko Usuba
Roger & Kay Wagner
Silver Beaver Association

Scout Shop News.....

Summer camp is here, stop by and pick up your Merit Badge books. We have some black & white editions for \$1.00 and the brand new full color editions for \$4.49. Check out the discontinued rack, new things have been added. There are some one-of-a-kind treasures to be found. Are you looking for patches to trade at summer camp? Look in the patch basket for past event patches and they are only \$1 each. We have BSA t-shirts for \$6.99, great for a Class B uniform. Packs don't forget about having one event a month to qualify for the Summertime Pack Award. Come in and get ideas for your event like a Space Derby or Raingutter Regatta race.

**Save the Date!!
Popcorn Kickoff September 1, 2011.**

Commissioner Corner

I just returned from Silver Trails Scout Camp feeling all pumped up. The reason was my participation in the Blue Water Council's annual Dad and Lad event. If you haven't been to one, or to the Mom and Me equivalent held in October, you have really missed out on a great time. Each of those events takes about six months to plan and require many volunteers to pull off successfully. My job was to run one of the two BB gun ranges. I have been doing that for many years now and never tire of watching all of those young Cub Scouts learn the fundamentals of shooting a BB gun and the required safety program attached to it. I also never tire of seeing a boy get his first bulls-eye!



The Dad and Lad event, and many others like them, give parents the opportunity to have some quality time with their son and make lasting memories that the child will always remember. When I got home yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak with my oldest son, who is now 45 years old, for a few minutes. We discussed an event that we had been to over 30 years ago. He still remembered it with fondness and expressed to me that he was so happy at the time we had participated in it and how much fun it was. Those are the kind of memories that money cannot buy. When I am 90 years old and sitting in my rocking chair on the porch, I will not be thinking about the great job I had or the nice cars that I drove but about the great family memories I had the opportunity to make when I was younger.

It takes many volunteers to make the Scouting program run properly. Each leadership position in the BSA is important, from the Den leader to the Cubmaster. Our Commissioner staff is also important. Each pack and troop needs and deserves a unit commissioner to serve as a friend, resource and guide to help that unit provide the best Scouting program possible to our youth. We are in need of experienced Scouters who are willing to step up and fill those positions. If you were a Scouting volunteer at one time, and are looking to get involved again, why not as a unit commissioner? Call the Council Office if you are interested in helping our kids to grow up into fine young adults.

Steve McPherson, Council Commissioner

Eastern Michigan Bank & Blue Water Council Sporting Clays Fundraiser Event When: Sunday, August 21, 2011 Where: Four Square Conservation Club 6779 Cline Road, Jeddo Shooters Fee: \$100

The shooters fee includes 75 bird rounds of sporting clays, shells, dinner and beverages. Sign up as an individual or get your friends together and come as a group. Groups of 5 will travel from station to station together. There will be a live auction, door prizes and silent auction prior to and during dinner. For more information call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529 or go to our website: www.bwcbbsa.org and get a brochure. Adult and Boy Scout (14 & older) volunteers are needed to run shooting stations. Contact Cyndi at 810-982-9529. No experience necessary.

Join us for the Grand Cookout Monday, July 11, 2011

This year's Grand Cookout will be held on Monday, July 11 at the Silver Trails Scout Reservation. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm followed by a brief joint meeting of the council board, properties committee, commissioner staff and district committee. Information regarding the Area Two Project will be announced.



The steak or chicken dinner, along with all the fixings is \$10 per person. Contact the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529 by Thursday, July 7 to place your reservation and to indicate your preference of steak or chicken. Spouses are welcome.

Ranger Jerry Goes to Camp

It is good to be home! Recently I had the privilege to attend BSA's National Camp School at Anthony Wayne Scout Reservation Camp Chief Little Turtle. I arrived in Indiana to almost 78 degrees, sun was shining, birds were singing and then....Yes you guessed it, RAIN! The entire time I was at AWCN it rained, the hummingbird size mosquitoes tried to carry me away, my tent leaked, my sleeping gear was soaked, my cot broke and every poison ivy leaf I came near infected me. Man I had a great time! I took the Shooting Sports program training. It was eight days of intense training in several disciplines. Boy Scouts of America and the National Rifle Association have come together to set a National Standard for all the ranges. In the very near future all BSA activities will mirror those of the NRA, 4-H, as well as our entire local shooting sports activities. BSA with the help of the NRA has produced a new Standard Operating Procedure manual. This new SOP will be the "bible" so to speak, to operate all the BSA ranges. There are 2 manuals available, first the Boy Scout of America National Shooting Sports Manual and the Shooting Sports for Cub Scouts. These manuals incorporate pistols (Venturing Only), rifles, shotgun, muzzle loading rifle, tomahawk, throwing knives, air rifle, bb gun, sling shot, archery, atlatl (spear throwing) and rockets.

We Need Friends of Scouting Friends

Thank you to all of our Scouting Friends who donated so generously in support of the Scouts in your communities! But the season is not over yet. If you didn't have an opportunity to donate during a Blue & Gold Banquet or Court of Honor, stop in to the Scout Service Center or mail in your donation. Every penny counts when it's the future of our Scouts! With your help, we can support our camp Silver Trails for our events and provide an opportunity for every boy to be in Scouting, along with training for leaders, council support staff and liability insurance just to name a few. Friends like you make Scouting possible!

Judy's Retiring

Please join us in congratulating Judy McCarthy for her 9 years of service at the Blue Water Council! She has been a wonderful asset to the Boy Scouts and will be greatly missed. June 30 will be her last day in the office so stop in to wish her well. Happy Retirement Judy!

From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



It had rained the previous day. Friday evening brought fair weather, but it was a bit chilly out. The forecast for Saturday was partly cloudy with a chance of rain. So what's new about that! We hoped for good weather. The boys in the Troop needed the opportunity to practice.

I have to admire the adult staff we have assembled to support this Troop. They put a lot of work into making it successful. It is no accident that the Mackinac Island Service Troop is a "crack team" when they get on the Island. The Troop is boy run, with all the best adult support.

Saturday morning, we all wondered what the day would bring. Would rain and wind alter our plans? Would we have to practice inside the Rotary Lodge and Kane Building? Would we end up with 58 wet Scouts as the legacy to the Troop's overnighter at Silver Trail Scout Reservation?

Coffee on and short walk from my bunk, I stood at the edge of the parade field, looking east. Ranger Jerry soon joined me and stood to my left. We were both captivated by the beautiful morning that had grown out of a cool, rainy night.

Something about the mist in the air, with the sun rising over the trees, seemed to be saying, "Hey, over here, don't miss this!" We stood and watched as a glorious rainbow began to form. First the south end. Then the North end. Magically, it grew together into a full arch that would take your breath away. It was incredible.

Ranger Jerry and I watched in silence. "That's awesome!" Jerry exclaimed, breaking the silence, and inviting a little friendly chatter. We continued watching as the arched spectrum grew brighter and brighter. "Wow! Look at that!" I said, as its intensity grew, moment by moment.

Then it happened. A second arch was born just below the first. A double rainbow, poised over the parade field. It was the Great Master Himself sending a message that the day would be blessed. The Troop would have good weather and a solid and productive training experience.

Ranger Jerry and I watched until the rainbow faded. Its message was delivered, and we had received it. What a way to start the day.

Leaving our station at the edge of the parade field, Ranger Jerry put on his burliest and most ominous face. In his gruffest tone, he said, "Now I'm not planning to read about us sharing a special moment under a rainbow in The Bridge,..... got it?" I assured Ranger Jerry that I would never do that! (Oh well, what can I say!)

Breakfast wasn't fancy, but it got the Troop charged up and ready for action. With an unusually high percentage of young Scouts this year, we anticipated challenges. The boys proved us wrong. Everything went beautifully.

Stations were set up to mimic the downtown on Mackinac Island. Biddle House, the Indian Dorm and the Visitor Center to name a few, were represented with signs on posts. Atop the hill were stations which mimicked the Fort. Adult leaders assisted as senior Scouts taught the younger Scouts what to do at the various stations. Flags were raised and lowered over and over again at the flagpoles on the parade field. Unfold, up, down, fold, unfold, up, down, fold, over and over again, seeking perfection. The Scouts were great.

As the cook, I made sure the Troop had breakfast, lunch and lots of cool water and bug juice to drink. I always threaten the Troop with the classic menu of a wagon train, "Hot, brown and lots to go around!" In reality, they eat from a very handsome menu. We haven't had too many complaints on the food!

I stole away for a bit and went for a walk down by the bridge. There stood the new bridge over Silver Creek, right next to the old bridge, which has served for so many years. It reminded me of the Blue Water "Bridges".

I remembered the beginning, when Kevin dropped the main span trusses off at camp. Earl went to bat and helped assemble the permit application. Permits with MDEQ, the Corps of Engineers, Building Permits, Soil Erosion Permits and more were assembled and approved. Bob providing inspection services as Raymond Excavating poured concrete and erected the main span. SEMCO welders assembled the approaches to the main span. Finally, the true icing on the cake was the Boy Scouts of Crosswell assembling the deck to the bridge under Gary Beem's direction. Wow! That's awesome!

The Scouts working toward success on Mackinac Island, as well as the new bridge over Silver Creek are testimonials to Scouting. The power of teamwork is exemplified in Scouting, for Scouts and Scouters alike.

Jump in and join the team. Help your Scouts be part of the team. Accomplish great things. Look for that rainbow the Great Master provides as a reminder of the blessings around us.

Steve Down

Check Out the Scout Programs at the Detroit Zoo

The Detroit Zoo is offering many programs for both Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. They also offer an "Animals After Dark Overnight" program. Check out their website at www.detroitzoo.org or call them at 248-541-5717 ext 3800.



Marbles Anyone?? Marbles have left an archaeological record in the form of small, smooth, round, stones or fired clay balls going back some 2000 years. Thomas Jefferson, our nation's 3rd President, was not only a serious player, but had a collection of marbles that he showed to visitors. If this has your curiosity peaked, then this article is for you. In 1922, some 89 years ago, the National Marble Tournament was organized. Bet you didn't know that? Not only is it that old, it's still going strong! There are tournaments every year and they are looking for players all the time. No experience needed! Sam Grey, a local resident wants to get youth involved in learning to play marbles. He also would be interested in helping with a marbles beltloop anytime. Contact Sam at 810-987-5798 to get started on a fierce game of "Ringer"!



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



June

- 1 Commissioner Meetings
- 4 Canoe Campmaster
- 8 **FOS Luncheon**
- 11 OA Membership Meeting
- 11 Cub Scout Den Leader Training - SSC
- 13 Executive Committee Meeting - SSC
- 15 District Committee Meetings
- 18 Philmont Group Leaves
- 18-19 Silver Trails Archery Shoot - STSR
- 24-26 Webelos Weekend
- 27 Archery Committee Meeting - 7 pm SSC
- 28 Eagle Board of Review - Westminster Church

August

- 6-7 Silver Trails Archery Shoot - STSR
- 8 Executive Committee Meeting - SSC
- 10 Combined District/Commissioners Meeting
- 17 Program Kickoff for Boy Scouts - 6 pm**
- 24 Program Kickoff for Cub Scouts - 6 pm**
- 29 Archery Committee Meeting - 7 pm SSC
- 30 Eagle Board of Review - Westminster Church



**The Scout Service Center will be closed
 Wednesday, June 8, 2011 from 11 am until 2 pm.**

July

- 4 Scout Service Center Closed**
- 11 Grand Cookout - 6:30 STSR
- 26 Eagle Board of Review - Westminster Church
- 31 Florida Sea Base Group Leaves

<u>Council President</u>	
Earl DesJardins	810-984-5506 ext 201
<u>Council Commissioner</u>	
Steve McPherson	810-966-2246
<u>Black River Basin District</u>	
Terry Green-District Chairman	810-385-7669
Randy Smith-District Commissioner	810-305-0783
<u>Three Rivers District</u>	
Dan Steinmetz-District Chairman	810-765-9765
<u>Roundtable Commissioners</u>	
Chris Knuth-BS Roundtable	810-434-6189
Kathy Graham, Joni MacLean & Stacy Dasher-CSRT Team	

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