



TROOP 209 CATALINA COUNCIL, TUCSON, ARIZONA



Committee Meeting Notes February 2nd, 2009

The following are highlights from the Committee Meeting held for Troop 209 on February 2, 2009 at SEAS:

Friends of Scouting – Dean Berkey

Dean Berkey gave a presentation to the troop committee describing the benefits of contributing to the Friends of Scouting. Friends of Scouting is the boy scouts fundraising program that is designed to cover many of the costs of scouting. Among items that are covered are: maintenance fees, expenses at Double V and Camp Lawton campgrounds, training such as Wood Badge, liability insurance, professional staff's salaries, and utilities. BSA estimates that it takes, on average \$209/year to get a boy through scouts. Dues and registration that is collected for recharter at the end of the year go to the national offices. Money collected through Friends of Scouting stay within the Catalina Council.

Dean took pledges and checks from adults attending the committee meeting as well as those attending the evening scout meeting. There are several recognitions for individual as well as total troop contributions. These ranged from embroidered patches to perks for the troop. For example, collections above \$4,300 for the troop gets "Platinum" recognition where the troop gets its advancements paid for, 10% discount for camping fees, a free weekend use of a Catalina Council campground, and priority on next year's campsites.

As of the end of the night, Troop 209 reached "Gold" level status and was short of the "Platinum" level by \$400. Money and pledges are collected year round and there is still an opportunity to contribute. Dean gave Joe Vaskovic pledge forms and said that money/pledges can be collected by Barbara Pieper. March 7th is a District dinner where contribution levels will be recognized by the Council.

Event Debriefs

Several events were held since the January 5th Committee Meeting and the following was discussed regarding the events:

1/12 – Scout Elections: Elections were held and William Madson was elected as Senior Patrol Leader. Other elected positions will need to be recorded in the troop's TroopMaster database. Joe Vaskovic to contact William regarding the other elected positions.

1/17 – Robert Cavazos’ Eagle Court of Honor: Robert Cavazos had his Eagle Court of Honor at SEAS and it was well attended by the troop. One unique feature of the event was a great video presentation prepared by John Longhofer that included the voice of Alex Jimenez, a Troop 209 Eagle Scout now a junior at West Point.

1/23 1/25 – Parker Canyon Campout: Troop 209 camped at Parker Canyon Lake for their annual winter campout / Webelos camping invite. It was quite a success with a very large turnout. The following comments were made:

- We had between 50-56 people on the campout
- There were 4 Webelos with parents as guests
- The Fly Fishing Merit Badge was worked on by a number of scouts
 - Special thanks to Greg Ogden, Dan Malone, and Pete Pederson who oversaw the fly fishing activities
- Foil cooking was a great success.

Near Term Events

Webelos Cross-overs were discussed during Mike Knutson’s Scoutmaster Update. The current schedule is:

- 2/7 Pack 209, Double V, 11 AM-3 PM
 - Mike Knutson will be attending with Kyle Pieper, Tyler Pieper, Max Jimenez, and Isaac Allwin
 - 4 Webelos are anticipated to cross over.
- 2/7 Pack 303, Catalina State Park, 5 PM Blue & Gold Dinner, 6:30 PM Ceremony. There was a request for support from the Order of the Arrow (OA).
 - David Tast, Dan Malone, Joe Vaskovic are planning on attending along with Russell Tast, Jonathan Malone, and Max Vaskovic. Kyle Pieper was mentioned as overseeing the OA activities.
 - 8 Webelos will be crossing over with 2 anticipated to Troop 209
- 2/19 or 2/26 Pack 219, Rattlesnake Ridge, 7 PM
 - Steve Bersack was going to attend along with Patrick Bersack and JW Thomson. Mike Knutson said he may also attend.

David Tast has the epaulets and neckerchiefs available for the ceremonies. He can be reached at: d.tast@comcast.net

2/20 – 2/22 – Service Camp, Oracle State Park: This camp has been reserved. Planning for the campout will take place at the **February 16th** scout meeting (scouts requested to hold a meeting on President’s Day). Items to be discussed include: attendance lists, adult supervision, drivers, menus, costs, special tools, etc. The intent of the camp is to have the scouts prepare a camp site that can be used in the future by scouts. Currently, the state park does not have any camp sites.

The news will need to be monitored since there have been discussions in the media that some state parks may be closed due to budget cuts. Oracle State Park has been one of those mentioned.

Future Events

The following future events were briefly discussed. Future events are those events planned beyond the next committee meeting.

3/20-3/22 Camporee. The event is now on the Catalina Council calendar, but no details have been made available.

3/28 Scout Expos at Reid Park – Something the Troop's scouts need to plan for or at least think about participating. In the past, the troop has helped with Pack 209 activities.

One suggestion that was made to the committee was to have the trebuchet's demonstrated that were at the troop's Survivor Camp this past fall at Double V campground. While this might be an exciting activity, there are safety concerns that would need to be addressed.

4/17-4/19 Rucker Canyon – nothing to plan for yet.

6/21 -6/27 New dates for Summer Camp at Camp Lawton. Dave Ammons reserved this week for Summer Camp after calling various committee members and evaluating other options. Camp Lawton does not have any Summer Camp scheduled for the 7/12 – 7/18 dates that the troop had initially had on their calendar.

7/19 – 7/25 New location for Pimaree. This special camp with scouts from Mexico will be held at Camp Lawton instead of Fort Huachuca. Joe Vaskovic will send out an e-mail containing a flyer for registration. The scouts received paper copies at last week's scout meeting.

Scoutmaster Update

Mike Knutson gave the following update in addition to discussions on the Webelos Cross-overs:

- Now is the time to consider "High Adventure" summer camp reservations for 2010. One possibility could be to revisit Chloride, New Mexico for a cavalcade summer camp. Troop 209 had visited this camp a few years ago and came away with a great experience. It is nearly one-half the cost of Philmont.
- Mike will check on reservations for the Labor Day campout at Lyman Lake..
- Reservations for the May Lake Apache campout will need to be checked. A request from the committee was made to check with Dave Ammons on this. The troop had two dates available for this campout: 5/15-17 or 5/22-24. The troop did not, however, want to have this campout on Memorial Day.

Subcommittee Updates

- Adult BSA Youth protection Training was discussed. Jim Tarleton said that we were down to only a few who needed the training. This is a great improvement from where the troop was a couple of months ago. Once those few get the

- training, Jim was going to focus on other training people needed for their positions such as New Leader's Essentials and Troop Committee Challenge.
- Ernie Vigil gave a brief overview on the troop's account. Individual requesting balances on their scout's accounts can e-mail Ernie directly at: lyvigil@aol.com
 - The following is the status of the Merit Badge activities going on in the troop:
 - Personal Fitness – Finishing in February. A 12-week segment of one of the requirements finishes in February.
 - Family Life – Finishing in February
 - Environmental Science – Nearly complete. Only an essay requirement remains.
 - Fly Fishing – Nearly complete except for catching at least two fish by fly fishing. Photo proof is acceptable. Greg Ogden to send out a list of urban lakes that you could try your luck at. Greg suggested that the troop either consider a troop "fish fry" or that there may be a group dinner for those who participated in the fly fishing merit badge. A final decision was not made.
 - Cycling – Ongoing. Dan Malone mentioned the need for scouts to complete a series of required rides.
 - Astronomy – Steve Bersack mentioned that he notified those scouts who had started this merit badge back in summer camp what requirements were missing.
 - Louis Pieper mentioned that he would be interested in being a councilor for the Automotive Merit badge and was wondering if any scouts were interested in that. Please contact Louis at one of the scout meetings.

Other Discussions

Guest Speakers

Guest speakers were discussed again. Ed Madson mentioned that his son William was interested in having speakers talk to the troop every six weeks or so. The committee will await any suggested speakers and their topic circulated for comment prior to being scheduled for the boys.

Polo Shirts

Barbara Pieper had a list of people who requested ordering a polo shirt and that she was ready to collect money and place an order.

Scout Request

The scouts requested to **have a meeting on February 16th**, President's Day, when previously one was not scheduled. The request was made since the following weekend was the Service Camp at Oracle State Park and the troop wanted to do their planning for the campout at this time.

Next Committee Meeting: March 2nd, 2009