



## TROOP 209 CATALINA COUNCIL, TUCSON, ARIZONA



### Committee Meeting Notes May 18, 2009

The following are highlights from the Committee Meeting held for Troop 209 on May 18, 2009 at SEAS:

#### Event Debriefs

- 4/21 & 4/28 Scoutmasters Indoor Training was held. It was reported that Greg Ogden, Dan Malone, John Waress, and Bear Risley all completed this training.
- 4/27 Court of Honor was held for Troop 209. Scouts were recognized for their achievements from this past winter. The event went well with no issues being reported.

The next Court of Honor that is scheduled for August was discussed by the committee. Last year, the troop held the event at the Double V scout camp and there was a suggestion that the troop should decide if this coming year we will be returning to Double V or if another location needs to be selected. In either case, reservations will need to be made. This issue will be forwarded to Mike Knutson and the scouts for their input/recommendations.

- 5/2 The troop held a swim check at the Double V scout camp. The event was scheduled from 1-3 PM. While it was a success that there was a large turnout, there were several issues that were brought before the committee:
  - A leader(s) should have been designated for the event ahead of time.
  - The electricity was out so the troop was asked to get the tests done as quickly as possible.
  - I-10 construction delays prevented some scouts from getting to the camp earlier.
    - The troop was finished before 3 and everyone had left by the time some of the scouts arrived.

Scouts who missed the swim test were able to take it at the Apache Lake campout. The swim check is just a troop requirement. Scouts going to summer camp will need to take the swim test there prior to being in the water for any activities such as lifesaving and swimming merit badges.

- 5/34 & 5/11 SEAS held their youth protection training for the troop. Many favorable comments were received for having the fingerprinting done on 5/11. Adults were appreciative that they were able to get everything taken care of during these meetings. Joe Vaskovic reported that he had talked with Deacon Jim afterwards and Deacon Jim said that he would get back to the troop in a few

- weeks with a list of all who completed the paperwork etc. and will have info on what still is needed by some people.
- 5/15-5/17 The troop went to Apache Lake for a weekend campout of canoeing and fishing. There was a turnout of over 30 scouts. The reports are that it went well. A number of scouts have now started their canoeing merit badge and fish were caught (but only by adults!)

There were several issues that came up at this campout:

- The trailer that has the scout equipment broke a leaf spring. Fortunately, it didn't cause an accident. This will need immediate attention. Dave Ammons said that he estimated \$300-400 for the repair.
- Several tents have broken poles and torn zippers. Dave said that the tents could be combined to have complete tents with the remainder being used for spare parts. Also, a stove was broke.
- At the campout, the older scouts went off on their own with two adults leaving a bunch of relatively new scouts to fend for themselves for the weekend.
  - There were reports of some scouts not knowing some basic camping skills such as setting up the stove, not knowing what their menu was, or didn't have cooking skills.

The committee had several suggestions to address the issues from the campout:

- Begin planning a couple of weeks ahead of the campout with regards to menu and who will be responsible for carrying out some tasks.
- The troop should hold a fundraiser to cover the expenses of repairs to the trailer and replacement of some of the tents and stove.
  - Suggestions included: Sale of Honey Baked Hams, Christmas Wreaths, Car Wash, Pick-Up Brass (from shooting range), or selling hotdogs in front of a store that would furnish the cart.
  - Total repair/replacement costs were estimated at: \$300-\$400 for trailer, \$500 for 6 tents, \$100 for stove for an overall estimate cost of \$1000.
  - Dave Ammons and Louis Pieper will compile a "Wish List" of equipment for the troop. This will include brand/model recommendations.
- Assign Assistant Scoutmasters to mentor patrols during the scout meetings and during campouts.
  - The troop has recently seen several adults complete their Assistant Scoutmaster Training.
  - A subcommittee of uniformed adults was formed to meet and discuss the adult interaction with the scouts. These members include: Dave Ammons, David Tast, Harry Contrades, Pete Pederson, Greg Ogden, and John Wares.
    - This subcommittee will meet prior to July and report back with recommendations to the committee and the troop.
- Regarding tents, Dave suggested that the replacements be a lower profile design so that the wind wouldn't catch them so much. Also, there is a benefit of having the same design since parts can be swapped between tents. Lastly, ground cloths were suggested as maybe helping them last longer.

The troop doesn't need to immediately need to hold the fundraiser. Ernie Vigil reported that there are funds in the scout account to cover the repairs of the

trailer and Dave said that the troop still has the old tents for use. The fundraiser will, however, need to be discussed with the scouts.

### **Near Term Events**

- Near term events are events that occur between now and the next committee meeting and, in this case, between now and June 15. The scout calendar does not have any events scheduled outside of the normal Monday scout meetings.
- SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – NO MEETING MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009

### **Future Events**

- 6/21 – 6/27 Summer Camp at Camp Lawton. Greg Ogden gave an overview of the status of summer camp planning:
  - 33 scouts have signed up, 32 have paid
  - 5 +/- adults have signed up
  - Need for scouts to tune in medical forms, photo release forms, and merit badge preferences
  - Council will not be taking sign-ups for merit badges prior to the first Monday of summer camp.
    - Greg expressed concern that not much will happen the first day of summer camp if they have the sign-up then. Barbara Pieper volunteered to talk to Josh at Council about the merit badges.
  - Greg has a list of who has signed up and what information may be missing from them.
- 6/26-7/4 Cavalcade – the group going has been taking care of there planning and is on track for the event.
- 7/13-7/18 Polaris – leadership camp for scouts. Scouts can still sign up.
- 7/19-7/15 Pimaree will be held. Reports are that at least 44 scouts from Council have signed up. This is a campout at Mount Lemmon with scouts from Catalina Council and scouts from Mexico. Sign-ups are still being taken at Council.

### **Scoutmaster Update**

- Mike Knutson gave the following update at the meeting:
  - Two crews for next year's high adventure Northern Tier camp are signed up. Planning will need to begin.
    - Scheduled for June 29-July 8, 2010
  - A Labor Day campout in New Mexico has been reserved. It is near Springerville at Quemado Lake.
  - Several of the issues regarding the Apache Lake campout were also reiterated. Fundraising was also discussed again.

### **Subcommittees**

- Handbook Update – Joe Vaskovic reported that there have been comments from the recent edits to the troop's handbook as well as comments regarding the content of the handbook. Joe asked for volunteers to review the comments and make suggestions back to the committee.
- Joe mentioned that the troop's permission slip has been revised and has different language from what was on the old form. The revisions occurred with an update to the form in getting it to a format that could be filled in on the computer rather than needing to be printed out and filled in by hand.

- Louis Pieper suggested that all those interested in reviewing the handbook comments and permission slip changes meet on June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss.
- Joe handed out hardcopies of the handbook and permission slip for those interested in the comments/changes.
  - Dave Ammons suggested e-mailing a notice to those interested in reviewing the changes.
- Adult Training – Jim Tarleton gave a report that the troop is getting their training done and we now have a large percentage up to date. Jim mentioned that on-line training is available, especially with regards to “This is Scouting” and “Troop Committee Challenge”. Just complete the training, print out the completion certificate, and turn in to Jim.
- Joe inquired if there were volunteers for a Recruitment Chairman/Webelos Transition subcommittee. There was a presentation from Jim Tarleton at the recent Roundtable meeting that has the Council focusing on retention of Webelos in scouting. The Council has initiated a program that the troop could possibly participate in. Now would be a good time for the troop to plan for coordinating with packs for this fall.
  - Barbara Pieper suggested that she and David Tast be part of the subcommittee.
  - Den Chiefs from the troop were brought up as an important recruiting tool. The troop doesn’t have many den chiefs and should encourage scouts to become den chiefs for some of the packs that might transition scouts to the troop.
    - Pack 209 is in particular need for den chiefs. They meet Friday nights.
- Max Jimenez will become the new Knights of Columbus liaison with Troop 209. Max has just turned 18 and will become a registered adult with the troop and expressed interest in becoming an assistant scoutmaster.
- Joe is trying to get an update from the Council on the status of the Troop’s Quality Unit Award for 2008. So far, he hasn’t been able to get information from the Council on this but will keep trying to get the update.
  - The Quality Unit form was completed this past fall at the time of recharter.