



TROOP 209 CATALINA COUNCIL, TUCSON, ARIZONA



Committee Meeting Notes July 27, 2009

The following are highlights from the Committee Meeting held for Troop 209 on July 27, 2009 at SEAS:

Event Debriefs

- 6/21-6/27 Troop 209 had its summer camp at Camp Lawton. Reports coming back are that the boys had a great time! A few constructive comments included:
 - The last minute change in departure times and having two groups leave SEAS was confusing and inconvenient for some.
 - There were reports of a lot of partial merit badges. One estimate was that maybe there was a 50-50 split between those completed and incomplete. In the past, 80% completions seem to have been the order. One comment was that Camp Lawton typically doesn't have a high rate of completion.
 - There was a comment on the selection of merit badges offered and that it could be improved to select those that could more easily be completed. For example, for Swimming, you need a deep pool and the one at Camp Lawton isn't deep enough.
 - August 12th there will be a debrief at Council regarding summer camps. Jim Tarleton will be attending from our troop.
 - A suggestion was made to publish a list of the incomplete merit badges per scout. Joe Vaskovic will contact Blake Kelly for this.
- 6/26-7/4 Our troop participated in Cavalcade in New Mexico. We had 5 scouts and three adults. Comments ranged from "strenuous" to "Love to do it again". Another comment was that we should try for more positive reinforcement and encouragement to one another during something as challenging as that.
- 7/18 The Knights of Columbus held a dinner at the SEAS hall and requested assistance from Troop 209. We had 11 scouts attend for the evening helping out with serving tables and cleaning up. There were many favorable comments both from adults as well as the scouts who attended. Some of the scouts said that they had a great time and that it was fun!
 - We need to get more advance notice on these events to be able to get the word out to the scouts so that they can add it to their schedules. Max Jimenez said that he would try and get a copy of the Knight's calendar.
- 7/19-7/25 Pimaree was held at Camp Lawton. This event is a joint camp with US scouts and scouts from Mexico that is held every other year and alternates between the US and Mexico. We had 6 scouts from Troop 209 attend. There were over 120 scouts total, over 60 from the US and over 50 from Mexico. The organizing committee had a number of first timers and the event came off as a huge success! Great camaraderie and scout spirit was seen at the camp. The next camp is scheduled for 2011 in Sonora.

- Troop 209 loaned some tents to the camp and Robert Malis had brought them back and was going to get them back to Dave Ammons and the scout trailer.

Near Term Events

- 8/15 Swimming at Double V. Barbara Pieper said that Troop 209 could join Pack 209 on Saturday, August 15th at the Double V for swimming. This is a great opportunity to complete the Swimming merit badges started at summer camp at Camp Lawton.
 - Barbara Pieper was able to get us reserved from 9-noon.
 - Jim Tarleton said that he could attend to help out.
 - Barbara said the “Carlos”, the Swimming merit badge councilor from Camp Lawton could also help out.
 - Those who need to finish the Lifesaving merit badge could also work on their tasks.

Not related to the swimming, but brought up at the same discussion was the need to have a CPR class for the troop. This is a requirement of the Lifesaving merit badge. Louis Pieper said that, with a month’s notice, Raytheon could present the class to the troop. We will need to circulate a sign-up list to the troop to see what interest we have.

- 8/21-8/23 Rifle Shooting in Tombstone. The troop is planning to go to Tombstone for a weekend campout that will feature rifle shooting (.22 long rifle). Thanks to David Tetrault, we have enough ammo.
 - The troop will need to schedule other activities for scouts not shooting
 - Dave Ammons was reported to be looking into either a visit to Tombstone or an activity such as building a rope bridge.
 - Robert Malis was going to see if he could get additional NRA instructors for the campout.
 - We were limiting the number of scouts that could participate to 16.
- Webelos Transition – While not scheduled for a particular day, Troop 209 has begun planning for coordinating with scout packs and will be participating in the Council’s Akela Adventure Program with Pack 209. Barbara Pieper and Barbara Gowdy will be overseeing this effort. It involves working with the pack to have Webelos II participate in troop activities and provide a closer relationship between the pack and troop with the goal being to keep boys in scouting after cub scouts. Pack 209 has 13 Webelos II. Kyle Pieper with our troop will also be involved in this program.

Future Events

- 8/15 – JW Thomson will be conducting his Eagle Project. In the coming weeks, more information should be available.
- 8/30 – Court of Honor. Our next Court of Honor is scheduled for August 30th. At this time of the year, we have held the Court of Honor off-site from SEAS and it was at Double V last year. Suggestions for where to hold it for this year ranged from Double V again to Camp Lawton, to Rose Canyon. The scouts were asked for their preference and word came back at the end of the meeting for Double V. Barbara Pieper volunteered to check to see if we could reserve the 30th. A

- follow-up by Barbara said she reserved Ramada Grande from 2-7 PM and the pool from 2-5 PM for kids and adults to swim!
- 9/4-9/6 The troop will hold its annual planning camp in Quemado, NM. The campsite has been reserved. Activities at the camp will include planning the calendar for the troop with the newly elected scout leadership and an opportunity to work on the Canoeing merit badge. The route to the campsite still needs to be worked out and we will need volunteers to haul a total of three trailers – the troop's trailer and two canoe trailers. Canoes from the Council have been reserved.
 - 9/19 A hike to Wasson Peak is planned by the troop. Wasson Peak is the highest peak in the Tucson Mountains just west of downtown Tucson. There are two trailheads with an approximate round trip distance of 6 miles. A comment was made that it is easier than the Picacho Peak hike we had this past Spring. This might be a good opportunity for Webelos to be invited and to join in a troop activity.

Scoutmaster Update

- Mike Knutson gave the following update at the meeting:
 - We will need to get two lists of scouts interested in the Rifle merit badge for the campout near Tombstone. We will need one for those needing to finish their merit badge and those who want to start and finish. Priority for shooting will be based on these lists and Mike's dibs list.
 - Mike also said Cavalcade was "Challenging" with a lot of opportunity to work on horsemanship. There was a lot to do to saddle the horses and get the packs ready as well as camp set-up. There were early morning wake-ups too.
 - Dates for Northern Tier are from June 29th till July 8th, not including travel days. The troop can take two crews of 8 people (6 scouts & 2 adults) for a total of 12 scouts and 4 adults.

Subcommittees

- Ernie Vigil handed out a Treasure's report listing the troop's funds including scout account dollars and a listing of expenditures by the troop going back to 2006.
- Adult education was discussed:
 - Jim Tarleton expressed that we are over 90% trained for adults regarding BSA youth protection training. New registered adults must complete this training within 90 days of registration and it is available on-line through the Catalina Council website. <http://olc.scouting.org/>
 - "This is Scouting" replaces "New Leadership Essentials" in the adult training. Other training to take is "Committee Challenge"
- Merit badge opportunities being overseen by councilors: Fly Fishing, Dog Care and Canoeing.
- There hasn't been a meeting between the assistant scoutmasters to discuss mentoring of our scouts and assignments to the patrols.

Other Topics

- We still need to collect dues from 32 scouts for the second half of the year. This is more than half of the troop. Ernie will send Joe a list of those who need to pay the \$40 and Joe will contact them.

- The scout equipment was discussed. Louis will check with Dave Ammons about what the troop needs. We just purchased three new stoves and received one donated stove. The tents have recently been repaired. A confirmation will be needed about whether we need any additional equipment prior to the Rifle Shooting campout.
- The 2010 National Scout Jamboree is being planned. For information, contact Chip Travers from Crew 747. Recent contact info for Chip is: 294-3333 or Chipnjo@cox.net.
- Fundraising with regards to honey baked hams was discussed. Barbara Pieper to look into this with Council. She said that this is an easy fundraiser for the scouts and the profits can go to each scout's account.
- Barbara also mentioned a pizza kit fundraiser that Carol Dusek mentioned to her. Barbara will talk to Carol more to get additional details.
- Popcorn sales are coming up. Carol Dusek, Anne Pena, and Jeffery Young volunteered to oversee this fundraiser for the troop. A meeting is scheduled for July 30th for the Unit "Kernals" from 7-8:30 at St. Joseph's on 215 S. Craycroft Rd. A training meeting for Old Pueblo is going to be on August 8th from 7-8:30 at the University of Phoenix on 555 E. River Road.
- Polaris was cancelled for this year. Several comments were made that included:
 - Too short of notice given for cancelling a camp that people have added to their summer schedule
 - Not enough of a push from Council to get scouts to attend
 - This should have received more support since it is the one training session the Council puts on for advancing scout leadership
 - Next year will be tougher to recruit scouts to attend with regular summer camp, Northern Tier, AND the 2010 Jamboree.
- The OA calendar was discussed. As of now, there is an OA Banquet scheduled for August 15th (we have JW' Eagle project and the swimming at Double V also scheduled). The troop should add OA events to the troop calendar so that people are aware of other activities that may conflict with what they want to plan. The troop needs to get an OA representative.