



Troop 89 Thanks Ed Sleeper for His Service

After more than 4 years of service as Troop 89's Committee Chairman **Ed Sleeper** has decided to step down from the position. Ed has put a great deal of work into the troop as Committee Chair and has spearheaded troop fundraisers many times. We would like to thank him for his service to this troop. Taking over together as Co-Committee Chairs will be **Joette Conger** and **Jason Feld**. Joette has two sons in the troop and has been involved with the troop for 5 years. She has spent a week with the troop during summer camp at both Shin-Go-Beek and Mach-Kin-O-Siew as well as attending many campouts and is an active member of the Troop's committee. Jason has been involved in scouting and a registered member of troop 89 for 18 years, is an Eagle Scout and currently runs the Troop's website as well as being an active member of the Troop's committee.



Scoutmaster's Corner:

Good Day Troop,

Well, I hope everyone has had a good month, it sure seemed to fly by! We have had an interesting couple of meetings, the last one of which did not turn out well at all. I bring this up because a fair amount of substandard work was done, nothing that the boys could be proud of. If a job must be done, it must be done with pride, because your name and character is associated with the quality of work you do. It is not always fun, but it is often important. I want the boys in our troop to leave a legacy, one to all the scouts who will follow, of pride and accomplishment. When we break the bonds of friendship and trust to argue about a petty task, we weaken ourselves and what it is that makes us great.



YiS, Jordan Schroeder

Genius is 1% inspiration, 99% perspiration.

- Thomas Edison

Attention Scouters!

At the last troop committee meeting a proposal was made that with the rising costs of Eagle Projects, the troop should have a Project Scholarship for Eagle Candidates, this money would be given after the scouts project has been presented to the committee, approved by Council, and would still require that the scout turn in receipts, but if all these things are done, the troop would give the scout \$200 toward his project. The troop committee will be voting on this proposal at the next committee meeting (Wednesday December 12, 7:00pm) any one who would like to vote must attend that meeting. Before the vote, the floor will be open to arguments for or against the proposition. If you feel strongly one way or another **YOU MUST ATTEND THE COMMITTEE MEETING!!!!!!**



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Important Dates:

Nov 30th — Life to Eagle Meeting
Dec 10th — Recharter Form Due
Dec 12th — Committee Meeting
Dec 17th — Troop Christmas Party!
Dec 17th — Newsletter Information Due
Dec 25th — Merry Christmas!
Dec 27th — OA Winter Banquet
Jan 1st — Happy 2008!
Jan 1st — License Plate Form Due

Do You Know Where Your Son Is?

Some of you may be wondering, where should my son be in rank advancement for x years in the troop? Well, I'm going to break down what the average advancement schedule should look like.

-Within the first year, your son should be Tenderfoot, and have a good chunk taken out of Second Class requirements. During that first year, every attempt should be made to get him to summer camp because it is an excellent chance to earn a lot of requirements, and earn a few merit badges as well.

-By year two he should be Second Class if not First Class, Tenderfoot through First Class has many skills that are the same, so those skills kind of get lumped together (First aid requirements are an excellent example) Sometimes, it may take the first three years to get to First Class, but that is ok, we all live busy lives, the boys included.

-At year three, your son is at least 13, and that leaves 5 years to finish everything and get his Eagle, it also means that he is getting close to High School, and his life is only going to get busier during those tumultuous years. The real kicker about the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle, is that they require a lot of time. It is no longer about learning outdoor skills, it is about developing leadership potential. There are four, six, and six month leadership terms required for Star, Life and Eagle respectively, not to mention service hours, hours spent earning merit badges, and finally the culmination of all his efforts, his Eagle Project. The Eagle project can easily take 7 months or more to get approved and finished, so its not something that should wait till the last minute.

This is the average time line, and does not apply to all scouts, but it is at least a framework. We try to cover as much ground as possible at meetings, but we are trying to meet the needs of 65 boys at different levels of progress, and so some individual attention is necessary. This is why patrol meetings outside of the regular meetings is encouraged. If you have any questions feel free to ask me, and I am also willing to meet with scouts and parents outside of regular meeting times to discuss the scouts progress, or what we need to do to get him where he needs to be. Please contact me at Scoutmaster@Troop89.net or by phone.



NEW TROOP COMMUNICATION POLICY!

The troop's committee recently discussed and decided to implement a new communication policy which will make it easier for all troop members to receive information and know what to look for. Beginning in December, all troop email communications (outside the newsletter) will come from CyberNews@Troop89.net. If anyone in the troop needs to send information to the troop membership (including fundraising updates, activity updates, Eagle project information, etc) you will need to email your information along with any necessary files (if you have a schedule for example) to CyberNews@Troop89.net. The Webmaster, Jason Feld, or Communications chair, Justin Feld, will make sure the information is formatted properly, move any files to the web, and submit the information to the troop's distribution roster. This will make it easier for you to spot important troop communications by receiving your information from one source. Remember to please adhere to the new policy beginning December 1st and also instruct the spam filter of your email program to always allow emails from CyberNews@Troop89.net to your inbox. Thank you.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sales:

By now, the Troop 89 Christmas Tree Sale is in full swing. Please keep in mind that there are several open slots to work and we need **everyone** to do their share. The sign up sheet is at the tree lot, please stop by and sign up.

If you have questions or for more information, please contact **Jim Burke** at jburke5@sbcglobal.net



New Merit Badge Counselors:



We have 2 new merit badge counselors in the troop. **Jason Feld** and **Greg Curry**. Jason is certified in Computers, Crime Prevention, Electronics, Emergency Preparedness, Music and Motorboating. Greg is certified in Fire Safety, Wilderness Survival, Rifle, Shotgun, Orienteering, First Aid, Family Life, Plumbing, Emergency Preparedness, Archery, Camping, Safety and Hiking.

If you wish to receive this newsletter via E-mail instead of paper, please let me know at Newsletter@troop89.net. If I do not receive an email from you, I will assume you prefer the paper newsletter. Please keep in mind that printing and mailing is expensive in a troop our size. If you are able, please opt for the digital format. ~ Justin Feld

Order of the Arrow News:



The Pachsegink Lodge Annual Winter Banquet is being held Thursday December 27th at the American Legion post right here in Downers Grove. Fellowship starts at 6:00 with Dinner starting sharply at 7:00. Cost is only \$19 until December 20th or \$24 after that. For more information or for the registration form, go to www.Troop89.net and click on the OA section. The banquet is right in our back yard, so do your best to have a strong Troop 89 showing! For more information on how to get involved in the lodge, see the Troop Representative **Jacob V** or the OA Coordinator **Justin Feld**.

Life to Eagle Meeting!

On Friday November 30th Troop 89 will be hosting a meeting for life scouts to learn more about their next step. The meeting will run from 7:00 to 9:00pm. The location will be determined and posted on www.Troop89.net as soon as we know. Matt Schmitz will be putting this meeting on specially for our troop, so please be there.



For more information, contact **Scott Musil**

Fantastic Flapjacks!

The 2007 Troop and Pack 89 Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale were once again a resounding success this year with net revenues exceeding prior years. Cub Scout and Boy Scout ticket sales were up this year as were the Bake Sale proceeds. St. Mary's school officials were delighted with how clean and orderly the Scouts left the gym and the kitchen this year and our customers were once again well satisfied with the tasty pancakes and the scrumptious sausages! Thanks to all for the many ways you helped this year and thanks in particular to the baker elves who provided supplies to the bake sales table. We look forward to another great event next year!

Web Corner:

This month I would like to introduce you to two more new features of our web site designed to make things more convenient for you. First the new calendar; I'm sure you've noticed the new calendar format by now. But have you noticed the cool features like the agenda, notes, and maps? When you are on the calendar, look to the upper right corner. You can view events by the week and month, but if you click Agenda the calendar will only show you upcoming event dates and nothing else, eliminating the empty days.

Using the January Klondike Derby as an example, if you go to January (using the blue forward and backward arrows at the upper left) and click on the Klondike, a bubble will open up. You will see the When, the Where, and a Description. The description will have any special notes we want you to be aware of, along with any information we want to pass to you or links to websites related to the event. Then if you click on the "More Details" link at the bottom of the bubble it will open a new window with the information. Click on the "Map" link to the right of the event address and a Google map will open showing you exactly where the event is! From there you can click "To Here", enter your address and get personalized directions right to the event!



To finish up this month's web corner; you may have noticed that with each campout now there is a little weather box in the campout's area on the homepage. This is to help you plan for the campout. The box shows you the current weather at the event's location. At the bottom of that weather box is a "Weather Forecast" link. Clicking on that will open the weather forecast in the troop's website (no new window) so you can see what the weather is suppose to be like during the event (up to 10 days prior to the event).

Remember, Troop89.net is designed for Internet Explorer 7.0 or later and is compatible with FireFox as well. As always if you have suggestions, comments or problems regarding the troop's website, please feel free to send me an email at webmaster@troop89.net. Thank you. – Jason Feld

IMPORTANT 2008 Recharter Information:

All scouts and scout leaders must renew their BSA membership for the 2008 Calendar Year. The fee is \$30 for scouts and \$20 for adults and includes national membership dues, a subscription to Boy's Life or Scouter magazine, and local dues. The form is available on the website and is attached with this newsletter. Please have this form filled out and returned to Jason Feld by the meeting on December 10th. You may also email the filled out form to webmaster@troop89.net. Please update your address, phone, and email so that we can update the troop roster. It is important to make sure you give us a valid email as we do much of the troop's communication via email. You can pay with your troop account, if paying by check, make it payable to "Troop 89". You may use one form for all members of your family. Thank you—Jason Feld

Señor Patrol Leader's Corner:

Hey Scouts,

Another month is up and things are going very well. It is hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. However, with Christmas comes some tasks that our troop takes on. Such as the tree lot. If you have not signed up to work the tree lot yet PLEASE DO SO. The tree lot is a ton of fun and is a rewarding experience because you get to meet and talk to the people that you are selling to. It is not like with popcorn or Christmas wreath sales where your parents take the orders into their work and all of a sudden you have thousands of dollars of sales. The tree lot allows you to get to know members of the community who are coming to support our troop. Also, we had a fantastic turn out to the November camp-out. There were 60+ total people that attended which is a huge number compared to some of our other camp-outs. Hopefully this gave some of you younger scouts a good idea of what our trips are like and hopefully you will all continue to travel with our troop. Things are going great guys so keep it up.

Your SPL,
Andy M

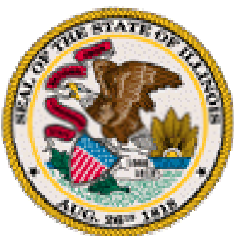


Thanksgiving Campout a Success!

On November 16-18, the annual Thanksgiving campout took place at Indian Trails camp in Janesville Wisconsin. Kicking off the fun filled weekend on Friday was a night full of jumping around on the numerous mattresses in the basement or just relaxing and mingling. Saturday morning the kitchen in the lodge was taken advantage of as a breakfast of pancakes and sausages were served. Whether the scouts were playing football, Frisbee, or creating and launching model rockets of their own, Saturday afternoon was an excellent time. After all the rockets had been launched, the highly anticipated feast was prepared by cooking 8 turkeys using a cardboard box wrapped in tinfoil and set on coals. The Thanksgiving dinner turned out delicious with plenty of food to eat for everyone. The campout came to a close that night with a campfire where many skits were put on by the scouts. Overall the campout was a great success.

Article Written By: **Tom A**—Troop Historian

Scouting License Plates Available Soon!



A bill was passed in the Illinois Senate allowing for the production of Scouting License plates. There will be 4 different plates made: a Boy Scout Plate, an Eagle Scout plate, and Girl Scout plate and a Gold Award (Girl Scouts) Plate. In order to get the Eagle Scout or Gold Award plates, proof must be shown that the award was received.

Proceeds from the sale of these License Plates will go back to the council in which they were purchased. THIS MEANS THAT DES PLAINES VALLEY COUNCIL WILL GET THE MONEY FROM OUR PURCHASE!

In order for the license plates to go into production, the state MUST receive 850 request forms by January 1st. A request form is NOT an order, just an expression of interest!

Please take the time to download the form off of www.Troop89.net and send it to the Secretary of States office.



**Y2008
BSA TROOP 89
Downers Grove, IL
Scout/Adult Recharter**

All scouts and leaders need to renew their BSA membership for the 2008 calendar year.

The fee is \$30 for scouts and \$20 for adults and includes national membership dues, a subscription to Boy's Life or Scouter magazine, and local dues.

Fill out the form below and return to Jason Feld by Dec. 10th. You must return this form to be registered for calendar year 2008.

Please update your address, phone, and email so that we can update the troop roster. If paying by check, make it payable to "Troop 89". You can use one form for all members of your family.

Thanks,

Jason Feld

Phone: 630-480-0802 Email: webmaster@troop89.net

Please cut here and return bottom portion with payment-----return by 12/10/07-----

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Preferred delivery method for Monthly Troop Newsletter: Email _____ US Mail _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Payment Method: Troop Account Check # _____ Cash



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
TROOP 89**

BSA Troop 89
c/o St. Mary of Gostyn CCW
444 Wilson
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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1956***

We're on the Web:
<http://www.troop89.net/>