

**Boy Scout Troop 33
Takoma Park Maryland
Monthly Committee Meeting
Minutes**

February 18, 2019, TP Church Parlor Room, 8-9:30pm

Present: Howie Schaffer (Committee Chair), Nicole Phillips, Dave Lanar, Craig Poulson, David Droddy, Sonja Kueppers (Secretary)

Introductions & Chair's Report - Howie Schaffer

Scout Sunday - Due to competing events, such as the Philmont crew training hike, and the long weekend, Scout Sunday was not well attended, but it was a great event. Pastor Reisner brought his scout shirt & merit badge sash and talked about his experiences. We are eager to continue this tradition in the future.

Review/Approval of Minutes of January 21 Meeting - Sonja Kueppers

Minutes were approved

Priorities

- Assateague Campout
 - This campout is a favorite with many families, but it cannot be done as a Troop campout and also include families while observing the relevant BSA policies, such as the Youth Protection policies and Safe Swim Defense.
 - Kristin Dill has agreed to secure campsites.
 - If it is to happen, it would need to be organized by families outside the context of the Troop and the Troop Committee.
 - Sonja will create an opt-in discussion mailing list for parents outside of Takoma Park scouts domain.
 - If someone wanted to do it, they would probably need to start organizing before May.
- Mulch Sale
 - Delivery will be March 22-24
 - New software program will be used for mulch sales (\$200 - \$100 a year, \$100 setup)
 - New software optimizes delivery route
 - People who have bought mulch in the past have been imported
 - Dave has contacted Country Boy (the mulch supplier)

- We don't deliver much outside the boundaries of Takoma Park
- Various logistical issues were discussed.
- Campout Registration System
 - Benefits of hard deadlines
 - Fosters patrol method
 - Tent assignments
 - Grubmastering
 - Equipment allocations
 - Division of gear for backpacking
 - Encourages scouts to be responsible
 - Outdoor Activities Coordinator should not be expected to chase people down
 - Drawbacks of hard deadlines
 - Don't want to punish scouts for parental mistakes, etc.
 - There was a wide-ranging discussion on this topic. The conclusion was that if families have missed a deadline, particularly if some parts of the registration were completed but not others, they can reach out to adult leadership to explain the situation and ask for an exception.
 - Considerable discussion took place about ways the youth leadership could be empowered over time to take on more of these responsibilities. One suggestion was that the SPL could reach out to Scouts whose paperwork isn't entirely in order.
 - Unrelated discussion
 - The per-head campout fee has been lowered. David thinks he only gets 50% of receipts for food. People are asking for driving reimbursement.
 - Nicole noted that in other troops, envelopes of money were handed out to grubmasters, then receipts were brought in later. David likes the idea of a cash envelope, remarking that it is helpful for teaching Scouts about budgeting.
 - Howie inquired about why David is accepting payment via PayPal to his personal account. He explained that he and the treasurer will settle up at the end of the year.
 - Howie mentioned that he's currently very much in the negative for the uniform exchange. But new scouts joining may help restore funding to the uniform exchange program. We have more smaller sizes than larger currently.

Decisions

- Appoint 2019 Troop Committee Leadership
 - Sonja stated that she may need to step down in the future due to her responsibilities as Scoutmaster for Troop 97 (girls)
 - There are currently some vacant positions. We should make sure to engage parents of Webelos who are joining the troop.
 - Sonja moved that the current committee positions be affirmed. Dave Lanar seconded, and the committee affirmed the current leadership slate.

Committee Reports

- Treasurer
- Eagle Scout Committee
 - Updates on specific Scouts were given.
 - There will be a Life to Eagle session in early March.
- Membership Committee
- Advancement Report
 - The following takeaways from MB Day.
 - 32 Scouts overall:
 - Fingerprinting with Bert Brandenburg (6) * All requirements completed
 - Sculpture with Kristin Dill (8) * One requirement remains
 - Bird Study with Roger Griffis (7) * Most requirements completed - Scouts to complete via email
 - Photography with Sonja Kueppers (11) * most requirements completed - CyberChip for 6-8th graders needed by almost all to complete MB
 - Howie: Big thanks to everyone who helped with this.
 - Frank Kolb will be offering Personal Management merit badge starting in March. This is an Eagle-required merit badge where Scouts learn about managing their finances. There is room for a maximum of 6 scouts for this merit badge. Propose preference be given to scouts that are Star rank and above. Meetings will be scheduled on Sunday afternoons from 4-6pm. Meeting dates are March 10, 17, and 31, and April 14.
 - Howie agrees that we should start with the highest priority.
 - Big thanks to Matt Rees for the level of completeness and detail that he brings to the position of Advancement Chair.
- Training Report
- Equipment Coordinator
- Outdoor Activity Coord.

- Fundraising
- Secretary
- Centennial Committee

Report from Scoutmaster - Johan Hammerstrom

- A strong leadership team is being formed for Mar-Aug. Conrad was elected SPL and will begin on March 7. The current PLC will lead the March campout. Conrad has appointed his ASPLs. We had strong candidates and PLs for all 5 Patrols. We're holding training on Sat Feb 23.
- Webelos cross over into the Troop from Pack 33 on March 16. We anticipate 16-20 new Scouts in the Troop. We have decided to keep them in a "New Scout Patrol" of sorts for the first few months before moving them into the standard Patrols. Depending on retention and total numbers of Scouts, we might add a 6th Patrol. Current Cubmaster Lee Howard will be transitioning into the Troop in March as a new Assistant Scoutmaster and will focus on orienting the new Scouts.
- One of the main decisions we will present to the new PLC regards their level of interest in the Soapbox Derby. It will be up to the Patrols to take the initiative if they want to race a car. Based on conversations I've had with a lot of Scouts, I think it's unlikely we'll get too much interest in it. I will share more at the March TC meeting.
 - This is a great tradition and perhaps we should not just let it die because the current PLC is not enthusiastic.
 - Older boys need to generate enthusiasm.
 - PLC leadership has continued to improve.
 - Older boys don't give back to the troop. Want Eagle Scouts to stick around.
 - Want boys to develop their leadership gradually over time.

General Discussion

Opportunity for questions, discussion, and development of action steps. 2-minute rule to facilitate as much input/discussion as possible.

Adjourned at 9:52pm (Next Meeting March 18, 2019, 8pm)

Scoutmaster's Camp Schmitt Field Report, January 26-27

*So let's hoist our packs once again my friend,
Where the waters flow 'round the tranquil Horseshoe Bend,
And we'll hike and camp in the old scout way.*

- The Loop of the Octoraro Bend

I'm happy to report that the Troop's winter camping trip to Camp Schmitt was a success. All 5 Patrols of the Troop were present and *camped in the old scout way*. All meals were prepared over a fire, either in dutch ovens or with water boiled in a pot held by a tripod.

Each Patrol spent the weekend collecting, sawing and chopping wood, maintaining their fires and cooking delicious food. Coffee cake, tater tot casserole, campfire chili, and beans'n'biscuits were just some of the delicious food made by the Patrols.

As Troll Pond was completely frozen over, the afternoon was spent ice skating. Badger Patrol Leader Phillip managed to defeat the entire Troop in a game of keep-away, thus bringing glory and honor to his patrol.

My thanks to:

- the Patrol Leaders for planning and leading their patrols
- the Grubmasters for providing the food
- Colin Sellar for planning the weekend and working tirelessly with the scouts all weekend
- David Droddy for organizing and coordinating the campout
- Lee Howard for felling trees and clearing brush all morning
- All of the adults who joined us camping and drove both ways: Colin Sellar, Sonja Kueppers, Lee Howard, David Droddy, Jonathan Velsey and Keith Tobias
- Michael Garner and Susan Gonder for towing the trailer both ways
- Amy Wajda and Ed Bolen for driving up Friday evening
- Matt Clouse and Mary Belyen for driving back on Sunday

I look forward to our backpacking trip on the AT in March. Please sign up today!

Troop 33 Committee Officers

CHAIR – Howie Schaffer

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE – Liz Hoge

TREASURER – Jim Vorhies & Dave Lanar

SECRETARY – Sonja Kueppers

- **Communications — Vacant**
- Webmaster – Charlie Hairston & Eric Smith

EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR – ** Maria Wiseman & Gary Cardillo, Co-Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR – Vacant

- September Renewal & Webelos Crossover – Bert Brandenburg
- **Recharter Coordinator – Vacant**
- Clothing Coordinator – Howie Schaffer
- **Training Coordinator – Vacant**

ADVANCEMENT COORDINATOR – Matthew Rees

- Merit Badge Co-Coordinator/Merit Badge Day -- Marian MacDorman & David Goldberg
- Eagle Coordinator --Dave Lanar

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY COORDINATOR – David Droddy

- Summer Trip Coordinators – Kevin Balfe & John Mark Nieman
- Ski Trip Coordinator – Kristen Dill
- Soap Box Derby Coordinator – Rick Swan
- Health Form Coordinator – Rebecca Woodings
- Camp Horseshoe Coordinator – Bryan Frey

FUNDRAISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR – **Vacant

- Pancake Supper – Anna Golovko, Shellie Williams, Minya Zeru
- Mulch Coordinator – Dave Lanar & Eric Smith
- Scouting for Food Coordinator – Wagner Family
- **Service Projects (Church/Community) – Vacant**
- Centennial Coordinator – Lee Howard