



NITTANY VALLEY DISTRICT, JUNIATA VALLEY COUNCIL * CHARTERED BY ST. PAUL'S UMC

News & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

May/June/July

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming events:

Here's a glimpse of what's to come

July meetings

July will be full of Sea Base High Adventure trips and camping at 7 Mountains. If you aren't traveling this month, we also have some fun Troop meetings planned. We'll be canoeing at Whipple Dam on July 12 and swimming at Welch pool on July 19th. Invite a friend to fill your first class requirement!

Backpacker Lite

Be on the lookout for information about this fun backpacking trip which will be held August 5-7.

Aviation MB Day

National Aviation Day is on Saturday, August 13th. This is also the day Scouts can earn Aviation Merit Badge. Sign up can be done on our own web site at www.troop31.us.

Troop elections

Make plans to attend the meeting on Tuesday August 23rd for troop leadership elections and campout planning.

Mark your calendar: End of Summer Campout Blow-out

The Troop's annual End of Summer Campout Blow-out will be held August 26-28. Stay Tuned for more details!

Annual Planning Conference

This year's planning conference will take place at the Troop meeting on Tuesday August, 30. Bring your ideas for troop meetings, activities, and campouts.



Event recaps and community service>

Talk about busy! We've had numerous campouts, hikes, and events the last few months. Check it out >



Spring Camporee Success

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this camporee a big success. See page 6>

Congratulations New Eagle Scouts: Gopal Jayakar, Isaac Messner & Dylan Grupe

Gopal Jayakar, Eagle Scout #180

Gopal Jayakar was a Cub Scout in Pack 82, and crossed over to join Troop 31 in August, 2009. Gopal has held a number of leadership positions in the Troop, including Webmaster and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. For his Eagle Service Project, Gopal designed and supervised the construction of a garden project at Radio Park Elementary School in State College. Raised plant beds were constructed that now contain a variety of plants that students can help maintain, and some will provide food that can be used in the cafeteria. Fourteen volunteers spent over 53 hours with this project. Gopal has been a long time volunteer at Mount Nittany Medical Center, and has contributed over 300 hours of service at the hospital.

Gopal graduated as an honor student from State College Area High School. He participated in many activities including officer positions in the National Science Bowl team, the National Ocean Sciences Bowl team, Technology Student Association, and the Computer Science Club. He has been accepted in the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State.

Isaac Messner, Eagle Scout #181

Isaac joined Troop 31 in June, 2009 after crossing over from Pack 383. Isaac advanced quickly, and reached the Life rank in August of 2012. He has made many contributions to our Troop, but what really stands out is his leadership. Isaac has served as Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Troop Guide, ASPL, and two terms as our Senior Patrol leader. For his Eagle service project, Isaac worked with the State College Assisted Living facility to help design and create a green space, that included a garden, flower boxes, bench, and plants. By the time the project was completed, 45 volunteers contributed 188 hours of service for this wonderful addition to the facility. See photo on right.

Isaac graduated from State College Area High School and was a member of the track and cross country teams, and was active with the TSA organization. He will be going to college this fall to study biology, and eventually go to medical school.



Dylan Grupe, Eagle Scout #182

Dylan began his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in Pack 50. He crossed over to become a Boy Scout in Troop 31 in March 2011. Dylan has held a number of leadership positions in the Troop including, Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Asst. Senior Patrol Leader. He enjoyed attending many summer camps including the high adventure canoe trip to Sabbatis Camp, Camp Seph Mack, and Seven Mountains Camp. Along the trail to Eagle, Dylan has earned a total of 33 merit badges, and plans to work on earning several Eagle Palms. For his Eagle project, Dylan worked with personnel at Centre Region Parks and Recreation to rebuild, repair, and improve the irrigation system for the Community Gardens at Tudek Park. He provided leadership for the 15 volunteers who contributed over 35 hours of labor for this worthwhile project.

Dylan is an honor student at State College Area High School, is very active in music, culinary arts, and the Gaming Club. His goal when he graduates is to attend CalTech to study astrophysics.

Biking at the C&O Canal

A few Scouts and adults spent the weekend on the banks of the Potomac River in Western Maryland.

Things encountered: a brick-lined, 3,000+ feet long, 170-ish foot long tunnel through the mountain; an aqueduct; temperatures considerably warmer than State College, a set of locks; a bike trail; Troops from Virginia and West Virginia; Scout cooking; mud; games; reading books around camp; only one serious rain shower, naps, a campfire, learning about the canal, ice cream at DQ on the way home.

Wildlife spotted: a white-tailed deer, a non-poisonous snake and countless turtles of all sizes.

Photo from Jen Brauser



Scouts giving back

Watershed Cleanup

Since 1997, Watershed Cleanup Day volunteers have removed 5.8 million pounds of waste from local streams, roadways, sinkholes, and illegal dumpsites. Troop 31 is proud to participate in this great cause annually. Scouts going to Sea Base this year helped collect trash and gained valuable canoeing experience on the waterways. *Photo from Paul Winkler*

Trash to Treasure

Forty tons. That's the amount of treasure that went on sale Saturday at Beaver Stadium. A goodly portion was sold to benefit the United Way. Less stuff goes to the landfill--shoppers get bargains--the United Way gets funds--the unsold stuff goes to Goodwill. Thanks to Troop 31 Scouts, Scouters and Families for pitching in. Over two evenings of prep and the sale itself, Troop 31 contributed 71 service hours to this worthy cause. *Photo on cover from Greg Brauser*

Flag Day at Boalsburg Military Museum

Scouts carried flags from the ages at the annual Flag Day Ceremony in Boalsburg on June 14. *Photo from Deb Norloff*



Event RECAP

AFT Recap

Twenty-nine point eight miles. Four days. Allegheny Front Trail. Red Mo, Black Mo. A deer and two horses. Trail treasure. Vistas; pretty good. Blooming mountain laurel. Hillsides covered in them. Elevation gained, elevation lost. Yellow blazes. Sweat, sunscreen, bug spray. Smell the gear. Roll down the windows. Blizzards at DQ. Hayden, David W & Mr Baker hiked the whole distance; Liam, Mrs Peters, and Mr Sinding joined for part.

-from Kurt Baker



New scouts complete their 5 mile hike for Second Class Advancement in April. Photo from Hyeson Kim

Project First Class Recap

Another successful Project First Class Campout was held in June at Black Moshannon State Park. Our new Senior Patrol Leader, Ben Brauser, lead the contingent, while most members of the Dragon Patrol participated. The Dragon Patrol are well on their way to complete their Tenderfoot rank and continuing with Second Class.

Thanks to the one troop guide and other boy leaders that supported this effort. Nice to have the Troop Committee join us on Saturday for dinner.

-from Ed Brezovec

5K Recap

The Troop 31 5K Run/Walk was a success! Sean Kelleher was the overall Male winner with a time of 19:38 while Jean Brownstead was the overall Female winner with a time of 27:18. There were also winners in individual age groups

14 and Under: Bryant Stangel (22:05)/Kelly Brownstead (34:46)
 15-19: Joe Messner (19:41)/Laura Brownstead (34:48)
 20-29: Kyle Sinding (27:17)
 30-39: Hannah Williams (32:09)
 40-49: John Messner (26:46)/Karen Peoples (29:04)
 50-59: Dave Allgeier (28:41)
 60 and Up: John Cunningham (24:04)/Kristine Eng

Thank you to Hayden Davidson for organizing this event and everyone who participated—as a participant or volunteer. We received excellent coverage in the Centre Daily Times, visit:

<http://www.centredaily.com/news/local/community/sate-college/article76448162.html>

Please remember to send pictures from Troop events to deb_norloff@yahoo.com so we can include them in the newsletter!



Photo from the Centre Daily Times

Photo Roundup



Scouts attend the Eagle Court of Honor for Jordan Hillsley and Jacob Witt on April 23, 2016. Photos by Ed McCash



New Order of the Arrow members Ben Brauser, Jacob Stangel, and Erik Norloff completed the Spring Ordeal on May 21, 2016.



Above: Axe yard at the New Scout Campout in April. Photo from Hyeson Kim.



Left: Congrats to this year's Troop 31 MVP; Mr Hillsley, with Mr Eng and Mr Pitt. Photo from Ed McCash

Spring Camporee

By Dave Heatwole

A big "THANKS" for everyone who participated and supported the Troop 31 hosted 2016 JVC Nittany Mountain District Spring Camporee! The camporee was a great success thanks to the help and coordination of everyone involved. I want to give a special call out to Frank Savino, Joe Davidson, Craig Colwell, Cale Brownstead, and Greg & Christine Stangel all of whom went above and beyond the call in their efforts to make this a successful event. We received nothing but positive comments from the leaders of other units in the district in regard to the programs, staffing and organization of the weekend. Aside from the rainy conditions Saturday night into Sunday morning, which caused us to cancel the morning chapel service and closing ceremony, the event went off without a hitch.

I also want to thank the scouts who served on the camporee staff, as well as the scouts and leaders of the troop who participated in the camporee. Troop 31 along with Pack 82 were by far the largest contingency participating in the camporee numbering around 50 in



total. The rough numbers for the camporee were 273 (youth and adults for the weekend), 25 cub scouts (+ an additional number of adults with the cub scouts) for the day on Saturday. This along with the support of approximately another 75 program volunteers, troop volunteers, and camporee staff put the total number around 400 for the day on Saturday.

Photos from Craig Colwell. See more pictures here: <https://www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/?fref=ts>



Calendar for July/August 2016

Tuesday, July 5	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting	Tuesday August 2	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
	7pm	PLC		7pm	PLC
Tuesday, July 12	6:30pm	Canoeing	Aug 5-7		Backpacker Lite
Friday, July 15	3 pm	Arts Fest Green Crew	Tuesday, Aug 9	6:30pm	Troop Olympics
Sun Jul 17-Sat Jul 23		Summer Camp, 7Mtns	Tuesday, Aug 16	6:30pm	Meeting
Tuesday July 19	6:30PM	Swimming	Sunday, Aug 21	9am	St Paul's UMC Coffee Hour Service
Tuesday July 26	7:00pm	Troop Olympics planning	Tuesday, Aug 23	7:00pm	Troop Elections/Campout Planning
Fr-Sat July 29-30		Scout Night at Spikes	Fri Aug 26-Sun Aug 28		End of Summer Campout Blowout
			Tuesday, Aug 30	7:00pm	Annual Planning Conference


Check www.troop31.us for more info and calendar updates!

(t) Fully trained for position (w) Wood Badge


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