

Note from the Editor

This Newsletter is a new way for the Scoutmaster of Troop 202 to help communicate and pass information to all scouts and parents about upcoming events, issues and announcements regarding the troop.

Creating this newsletter also helped me complete my last requirement for my Communications Merit Badge

Hopefully there will be a new issue released at the beginning of every month regarding upcoming events.

From,
Jacob Hsieh

USS Hornet Outing

This weekend, Dec 13th, Troop 202 will be spending the night on the USS Hornet. There will be various activities including learning the history of the USS Hornet and learning to live the life of a sailor which includes eating and sleeping like one.

All Scouts must wear class A- uniforms (class A shirt and any pants will be acceptable). More information on gear will be provided during Tuesday's meeting before the outing.

Scouts will be meeting at the Montclair's teacher's parking lot at 3:00 PM to assign Scouts to cars.

The Scoutmaster's Moment

This Newsletter is both a new and an old way for any group to keep informed, so naturally, as befits a vital organization in the 21st Century, this will be posted on the Troop's website. We must always recognize that not all Scouts and their families are totally plugged in to electronic communication. I even find that even those who are totally wired sometimes miss the message. A Newsletter goes back to a different time, slower paced, where the written word was a tactile experience, rather than the fleeting dance of tiny letters on equally tiny screens. This Newsletter will be available to all, with special emphasis on those for whom electronic communication is a bit harder.

There's another reason we picked Jacob to do a Newsletter. So many times we go through the requirements of merit badges and other things which involve "Checking the Box". I'm always on the lookout for ways where we can really get the most out of the Scouts' involvement in anything they do. Leverage is something we have all learned about recently. Troop 202 will benefit from the inception of the Newsletter, and through Jacob's efforts.

Senior Patrol Leader

At the end of the High Adventure trip this summer, the Scouts met to decide who should lead them as Senior Patrol Leader into the Fall of 2008. Mark Bennett was selected by the Scouts, according to our tribal tradition for picking our Scout leadership. Mark has done a great job leading the Troop for all of the outings we have had these last few months. He even found the time to propose, submit and complete his Eagle project. Mark is a calm and kind leader, who gets the Troop to work together, not by raising his voice, but through reason. His Troop respects him greatly, and this respect is what drives them on to do their best for him. I have been very fortunate in having Mark at my side during these last few months.

Mark's life is already getting busier, to the point where it would have been difficult for Mark to continue as SPL, so we turned this challenge into an opportunity for others to step into then role of SPL. Stephen Fong has served the Troop well and has grown in leadership greatly in the last couple of years. Stephen has accepted the position of SPL and I wish him well in this new and demanding role for the next few months.

Stephen Will, Scoutmaster

Upcoming Events

Month of December 2008

- Tuesday Dec 9th, Troop meeting
- Saturday December 13-14, Outing USS Hornet. Meet at 3:00 PM, Montclair Teachers Parking lot
- Monday Dec 15th, Philmont prep meeting
- Tuesday Dec 16th, Last Troop meeting of 2008.
- Saturday Dec 27, Eagle Court of Honor 3:00 PM Saint John's Presbyterian Church, College Ave

Eagle Court of Honor

On the upcoming Saturday, December 27, Troop 202 will be honoring the Scouts that made the rank of Eagle Scout in the 2007-2008 season of scouting. The Scouts include, Jose Rodriguez, JT Slama, Eric Barnes, Scott McBeth.

The Eagle Court will begin at 3:00 PM and will continue until all scouts have been sanctioned as an Eagle Scout. Immediately following the service there will be a reception with food.

Scouts are encouraged to come at 12:00 for setup and preparation.

Russian River Recap

One Saturday in September our Troop, 202, went to the Russian River. The weather threatened to be rainy but turned out perfect. We started from a point in the river and canoed about eleven miles. The river was running good, even in late summer. As a result, we capsized a lot by getting caught up in the brambles and overhanging branches as the river kept pushing against the boats.

After a lunch break, even the electronics boat, loaded with everyone's cameras, capsized. Mr. Will's camera, among others, was ruined. That was the unfortunate price of too much fun. Now, some fish are trying to take digital photos of each other but still can't keep from being scared away by the flash.

When we arrived to our campground, we (over) cooked ramen noodles for dinner and had a nice campfire and the usual circle of "Thorns and Roses." Everyone had a great time, especially the new scouts.

-- Matan B..



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.troop-202.net