

Troop 159 Newsletter

September 2009

(this is the internet version w/o last names)



What an active year we've had! Two new Eagle scouts so far this year (**Mike B.**, **Casey C.**) and others on the way. Adventures recently include a 50 mile bike ride, building rope bridges, camping, canoeing, and more.



Welcome to our newest scout: Jim!

Jim, and his father John, joined us for Summer Camp while they were still part of T606 Hebron.

Have you checked out our new web site?

<http://sites.google.com/site/troop159woodstock/>

And, our online Troop Calendar is:

<http://sites.google.com/site/troop159woodstock/activities>

Thanks, **John**, for providing these sites.



Popcorn selling time! Kernel **Bill** has handed out the forms at the last Troop Meeting. Turn in order forms *and* payment in full to Mr. K by October 19 during the Troop Meeting. (Note: Scouts/parents may pick up the popcorn on Nov. 14 in the Fellowship Hall at FUMC between 9:30-noon.)



Illinois & Michigan Canal State Trail



Scouts camped overnight prior to going on the 50 mile bike ride on the I & M Trail. Participants included: **John, Drew, Brian, Don, Eric, Alex, Joe**. Thank you, adult leaders: **Roger** (cycling Merit Badge Counselor), **John, Scoutmaster Brent, Dan**.



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Words from the Scoutmaster:

What to do, what to do, what to do?
Well, what do you want to do in 2010?

Everyone should have received an e-mail listing our 2009 activities and the activities I suspect we will repeat in 2010. Since 2010 is the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts of America, there are some special things going on. In September, there will be Air Camp at the Rockford Airport. I heard this was a great time when Council did this a couple years ago; I think it would be fun as a fall camp-out for the troop. The Council is also planning a "Tour-de-Blackhawk" series of bicycle trips; I think a lot of our troop is well prepared for this!

But what about summer camp: Canyon or Lowden? somewhere else?? High-adventure trip: maybe SeaBase in 2011 but what about 2010 - Pictured Rocks, Superior Trail, Canyon Camp's Venture Week? Canoe trips: Nippersink Creek, Kishwaukee River, Vermillion River, or Current River? Rock climbing at Mississippi Palisades or Devil's Lake? Prepare with an indoor climb at Northwall? Bike trip to Elroy-Sparta or back to I&M Canal staying at Starved Rock or mountain-biking at Rock Cut or Kettle Moraine? Brian Hess has suggested Okpik Winter Adventure at Northern Tier in Ely, MN (see: <http://www.ntier.org/index-home.html>); want to experience a real winter?

Now is the time to bring your ideas to troop meetings and get the support of your patrol and the rest of the troop. Get an idea, bring the

details (distance, cost, special equipment & training needs) and present to the rest of the troop. Let's fill the calendar with activities that we can all be excited about! The best thing about being a Boy Scout is that you, the scout, get to decide what the troop activities will be. Don't let the opportunity pass.



Upcoming Events

NIU Football Game & Camp Out

Sept. 26, meet at noon at FUMC parking lot. Watch the game, play your own game on the field, watch movies on the JumboTron, & tent camp overnight.



Invite a friend to the bonfire! We'd love to have new scouts join our troop, and this is a good way to introduce them to us. October 23, 2009 at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass.



Cobia Submarine

Make sure you're signed up to camp overnight on the real WWII submarine. <http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/uss-cobia.html> (Potential new scouts also invited to this! RSVP to Scoutmaster Johnson.)



Our Web Site has a list of Merit Badge Counselors, and lots of other information.

And, remember to check the online Google Calendar for other upcoming events...