



TROOP 510



<http://troop510.home.att.net>

March 2003



Scoutmasters Report

Tom Lenagh
Scoutmaster

Scouts, what would you think of a policeman in proper uniform except for trousers which were of bright plaid material? How about a hospital intern wearing a sport coat over is white uniform while on duty? Or what would you think of a train conductor wearing a fireman's cap or, even more absurd, an airline pilot wearing the silks of a jockey as he boarded the plane?

They'd all be "out of uniform," wouldn't they? With some of the outfits mentioned, you would not be sure what they really were.

Scouts, we have a proper uniform, too - not just a neckerchief or just a shirt, but like the people I just mentioned, we have a proper uniform. When we don't wear the proper uniform, we are just as "out of uniform" as the policeman with the plaid pants.

The Flag Code says that when we are "in uniform" we salute the flag with the Scout salute, but when "out of uniform" we salute by holding our right hand over our heart.

How do you think a Scout should salute the flag if he's wearing his shirt not tucked in or no neckerchief or some other non-official dress along with part of the uniform? He's not "in uniform," is he?

Troop 510 has a standing policy that all scouts and leader attend meetings and travel for outings in full uniform (shirt and neckerchief). Please come to these events in proper uniform.

You new Scouts will learned that our troop neckerchief has other uses besides looking good and showing our troop's colors. Over the next few months, you'll find that the neckerchief has many other uses.

There's one use, though, that you may not think of - and that's to remind you of the Scout Oath. The neckerchief is a triangle, and its' three corners should remind you of something you recently learned - our Scout Oath.

The Oath, you remember, has three corners, too - duty to God and country, duty to others and duty to self. From now on, every time you put on your neckerchief, it should remind you of the things you pledge each time you repeat the Scout Oath.

Perhaps you've heard some people say that life is a hike between the cradle and the grave. For some, it's a long trip of many moons. For others it's a short trip that ends unexpectedly.

But all of us are equipped for life's trip with two knapsacks - one to be carried on the back the other to be carried on the chest.

The average hiker on the trail of life puts the faults of others into the knapsack on his chest so that he can always see them. His own faults he puts in the sack on his back so that he can't

see them without special effort. He hikes through life constantly noticing the faults of other people but usually overlooking his own faults.

Scouts, this pack arrangement is bad because no one can have a successful life just finding fault with other people.

It's the man who can see his own faults and strives to correct them who enjoys the hike through life the most and finally enter the Happy Hunting Ground with thanksgiving.

Let's place the knapsack with our own faults upon our chests and put the bag with others' mistakes behind us. That way we'll have a happier hike through life.

Which way do you wear your knapsacks? Can we all make improvements on our own faults? None of us are perfect! This month try to improve on just one of your faults, can everyone do this?

PLC Notes

Chris Larson
Troop Scribe

March 2003

4th: Opening/Closing/Game: Basilisks

Troop Elections

Discuss Themes for McCarthy Lodge

Patrols: Finalize Court of Honor Skits, Practice Skits, New Patrol Info for Court of Honor

11th: Opening/Closing/Game: Flamingos

Watch: A Time To Tell ("The Movie")

18th: Court of Honor (6:00 pm)

Set Up: 4:00 pm

25th: PLC (6:15 - 7:00)

Weekend Events:

14-16: McCarthy Lodge

28-29: JLT (Junior Leader Training)

Eagle Cave Campout

Mr. Tim Boonstra

Eagle Cave is located 225 miles southeast of Eagan near Blue River, WI. Because of the long distance our group of 6 scouts, 1 leader, and 1 adult got an early start, 4:30 PM, from church. We were thankful for good winter weather although there was a good headwind to fight. Mr. Hammer insisted that it was a cross-wind which was causing his occasional migration onto the shoulder.

We stopped at a Burger King in LaCrosse for supper, a quick fuel stop, and continued on to Eagle Cave. We arrived at 9:15 PM and were escorted with our gear in tow to our assigned sleeping spot in the cave. We quickly rolled out our sleeping stuff and returned to ground level to the dining hall for hot chocolate and a donut. 11 PM was 'lights out' for our group although groups were still arriving until 12:30 am which made sleep a little difficult (at least for me). Our sleeping area in the cave was about 45 degrees (the closer you got to the cave entrance the warmer it was) so crawling out of the sleeping bags was done quickly so our breakfast of pancakes and sausages could be had. Free time then ensued which included outdoor trail hikes, 'somewhat stellar' billiards

play in the game building, video games, swing gymnastics in the snow playground' and of course spelunking (cave exploring). The cave, mercifully, was dry at this time of year which led to more comfortable exploring although the dirtiness level was the same as last year. My vote goes to Trevor for the filthiest scout. The evening's highlight was Bingo. Our group did not produce any winners but it was fun just the same.

The cave was a little quieter Saturday night which resulted in a more restful night, at least for this adult. We were quickly on our way Sunday morning and hit the road by 8:30 am. The small Wisconsin towns seemed pretty sleepy as we made our way to LaCrosse. The fun began as we were leaving LaCrosse. Vehicle 2 noticed that the right trailer tire seemed low on air so radioed Vehicle 1 (the Hammer van) to stop for an air fill-up. We added 20 pounds of air and were back on the road. But a mere 8 miles down the road another stop was required. Luckily, the Hammer van was equipped with an air pump so we filled up again and headed down the freeway looking for a tire repair shop. Unfortunately, there was not a repair shop all the way to Rochester (45 miles), at least one that was open on a Sunday morning. We limped along, stopping every 5 miles, until we were about 5 miles from Rochester where the tire disintegrated. Vehicle 2 headed to Menards to get some additional tools while the Hammer van proceeded slowly on the shoulder to Menards so the spare could be put on. The lesson to be learned is to have the proper tools in the trailer to handle any eventuality or 'Be Prepared'. Where have I heard that before?

Editors note: Rumor has it that the Troop Committee has banned Mr. Hammer from pulling the big red trailer. This is two campouts in a row where a tire has had problems.

Fly like an Eagle.....!

Linda Offerdahl
Committee Chair

Several 510 Troop members are in various stages of earning their Eagle rank, or have recently earned it. Here's the status on this great achievement:

Joseph Moschera: Earned his Eagle rank on February 20, 2003! For his Eagle project, Joseph renovated the Rosemount United Methodist Church courtyard area by reworking the flower beds, planting trees, and designing and building an arbor (with lots of help from other 510 members!).

Zac Wendler: Zac has his Eagle paperwork in and is waiting on the "big call" as to when his Board of Review will be. For his Eagle project at the School of Environmental Studies, Zac cleaned and renewed several overgrown paths and trails that had become unusable.

Brady Callinan: Brady has completed his Eagle project, which was adding new landscaping for the Phoenix Residence, a non-profit home for disabled adults. Brady is working on getting his paperwork in (his 18th birthday is in October, so he still has a little time!).

Chris Brenberg: Chris is in the "talking" stage of planning his Eagle project. He is meeting with someone now to define the project and hopes to get started on it in the next 3-4 months. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities to help Chris out this summer!! (Chris has til January, 2004)

Peter Boon: Peter is currently finishing up the magic "21st" merit badge, and is looking for inspiration for a great project! Peter has until November of this year. Come on, Peter! You can make it!!

Phil Sandager: Phil earned his Eagle rank this past June, 2002. Phil has been active in the Venture Crew. For his project, Phil refurbished the hockey rinks at Bridle Ridge Park in Eagan.

Congratulations to all of you. 510 has an awesome record of scouts who make it to Eagle rank. Remember, the average is only 1% of all boys who start scouting achieve their Eagle rank, so keep up the hard work!

The very end story

Mr. Hammer
Editor

A correction is that on February 8th 2003, Boy Scouts of America celebrated its 93rd year. I looked at a source quickly that said the 92nd year.

Normally, the Troop newsletter doesn't cover items outside of the Troop. I am going to stray from that and cover a Council topic. I had the opportunity to chair the Indianhead Council Court of Recognition Dinner for 2003. The event honors Scouts and Scouters that receive awards such as the Silver Beaver, District Awards of Excellence, the F. Alexandra Klas Award, James E. West Fellows, Eagle Scout Scholarships and Venturing Leadership Awards among others.

The reason I bring this up here is the theme tied in with the 75th anniversary of Fred C. Anderson Scout Camp. I found it fun to hear some of the stories of the old camp which originally was called St. Croix River Camp. Most Scouts in the early days used to ride the trolley to Stillwater and then hike to camp! In the early days there wasn't a road down the hill as there is now. There used to be a switch back trail between Good Medicine and the upper camp. Communication between the upper and lower camp was done by banging on a saw blade. Food and supplies were done by a shoot or slide. This continued until one Scout decided to ride it down the hill. He was fine until he realized he couldn't stop and hit a tree, breaking his arm. Anyway, stories were told by the present ranger, Art Marty, and Camp Masters Warren Lynch and Bob Nelson.

One item that I didn't see in Mr. Boonstra's account of Eagle Cave was that Troop 510 took second place in finding the most gold nuggets on the Gold Trail. Most were found by Trevor with assistance. Second place earned the Troop the following patch:



Finally, I could fill up this last page with interesting items that Mr. Callinan has been nice enough to provide me. However, I sit here at work finishing this newsletter while the meeting is going on right now. And, the tidbits he past me are at home. Yes, that means I am unprepared again. Do you know what that means? Yes, the first Scout to read this and come tell Mr. Hammer is unprepared gets \$1. Last time, it was Joe. Who will it be this time?