



Troop 52 Gazette



Spartans Claim First Place in the 2017 Klondike Derby

On February 4, 2017, the Spartan Patrol earned first place honors in the annual Mad River District Klondike Derby held at Camp Mattatuck. The Spartans received 1,013 points which was 57 more than the second place runner-up, Troop 23's Bull Dog Patrol. Last year's first place winner, Patriotic Union, came in fourth place with 942 points. Our two other patrols, the Savage Beast and Atomic Badgers, claimed 17th and 20th places, respectively.

Even though the temperature never got above 25°, none of the Boy Scouts from the 37 patrols that competed seemed to notice as they raced from town to town. The 2 inches of fresh snow which covered most of the circuit was enough to help the sleds traverse the trails around Lake Kenosha.

Mayor Brian Shannon led Troop 52's "Snow Shoe Relay" challenge. Patrols of up to five scouts strapped two eight feet long 2x4's on their feet and had to walk in unison along a straight track. The 100 ft. course tested their coordination and communication skills. Patrols were graded on time and scout spirit. A bonus question, devised by Mayor Shannon, tested the scouts in practical mathematics skills. The troop's town, Juneau, was located near the Chapel Pavillion.

Other Klondike Derby challenges included a Tomahawk throwing station, which was manned by the Mattatuck Chapter of the

(continued on page 2)

Sam Goetz Elected Senior Patrol Leader

Sam Goetz was elected Senior Patrol Leader on February 8, 2017 during Troop 52's annual leadership election. Sam will be aided by Wil Daddario who was named Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. In addition to Sam and Wil, the following Boy Scouts will make up this year's Youth Leadership Corps:

Steven LeClerc - Troop Scribe
 Spencer Dodge - Quartermaster
 Ian Wohlhieter - O.A. Representative
 David McClendon - Troop Librarian
 Nicholas Quicquaro - Instructor
 Aiden McCarthy - Instructor

A week later, patrols held elections for their leadership positions. The results are as follows:

Atomic Badger Patrol:

Patrol Leader: Jesse Kaye
 Asst. Patrol Leader: Alex Pillis

Patriotic Union

Patrol Leader: Christopher Sullivan
 Asst. Patrol Leader: Kyle Robinson

Purple Cobras

Patrol Leader: Michael Hanis
 Asst. Patrol Leader: Ryan Robinson

Savage Beast

Patrol Leader: Ben Bean
 Asst. Patrol Leader: Josh Malenda

Spartan

Patrol Leader: Josh Garceau
 Asst. Patrol Leader: Caleb Bean

Second Annual Troop 52 Golf Classic

The Troop 52 Golf Subcommittee welcomes you to the Second Annual Troop 52 Golf Classic to be held on June 24, 2017. The scramble tournament will take place at Crestbrook Park in Watertown. Before the golfers take to the course, a lunch will be served to the participants. Afterwards, a steak barbeque prepared by Sunset Grille is planned for the evening. Like last year's event, dinner-only tickets will be made available for those who want to join the festivities in the evening. Beer and other refreshments will be provided. Guests can enter to win the 50/50 raffle or many of the other raffle prizes.

Tournament organizers are planning more on-course special events and challenges in addition to the *Closest to the Pin* and *Longest Drive* competitions. Additional information will be posted on the Troop 52 website: www.tr52.com.

The 2017 Mothers' Auxiliary Ziti Dinner

The annual Mothers' Auxiliary Ziti Dinner will be held on April 1, 2017 at the Union Congregational Church. The proceeds from the annual event helps to defray the costs of Summer Camp, Camporees, the Klondike Derby, Order of the Arrow Inductions, and Summer Camp photos. In addition, the Mothers' Auxiliary makes annual donations to Troop 52's sponsor and the Joseph and Yvonne LeClair Scholarship Fund.

If you would like to place an ad to help support the event, placemat advertisements are now being accepted. Three sizes are available. Please direct any questions to Rose Soboleski at 203-217-9786 or rsoboleski@snet.net. The deadline is March 15, 2017.

Klondike Derby

(continued from page 1)

Order of the Arrow, the Build a Shelter station at the Outpost Campsite, and the Start a Fire station the Scoutcraft Pavilion.



Scouts attempting the "Snow Shoe Relay"



Mayor Brian Shannon tabulating the results of Troop 52's "Snow Shoe Challenge" during the 2017 Klondike Derby.

Scoutmaster's Corner

Joe LeClair, Scoutmaster

“Be Prepared”. We often say it. Our Scouts had several opportunities to actually live it recently.



Our annual trip to Camp Barbour in the “icebox of Connecticut” started out uncharacteristically warm. The Scouts were in t-shirts on Saturday as they practiced fire building and other survival skills. We were quite surprised to wake up the next morning with four inches of wet snow covering everything! Two dining flies ripped, and we found ourselves in a beautiful but threatening driving snowstorm throughout the morning. Despite the conditions the Scouts started fires and cooked breakfast before we packed up for home. All were warm despite the conditions, a credit to the preparation by the Scouts, their leaders, and parents.

For the first time, Troop 52 competed in the Connecticut Rivers Council First Aid Meet at the Hartford Armory. Our four patrols were primarily represented by younger Scouts, but they did well. It was a real eye-opener for our guys, as most of the troops have been competing for years and knew the “ins and outs” of the competition. I’m sure our Scouts learned, and if they decide to return in 2017 they will improve their performance.



Last week 16-year-old Sam Goetz was elected Senior Patrol Leader, succeeding Matthew Beres. I’m a lucky Scoutmaster to have such talented, dedicated Scouts leading our program each year. Every troop meeting looks like a beehive of activity. Stop in for a visit any Wednesday night.



Every former Scout asks, “Do you still do the Klondike Derby? You bet we do! In February our four patrols were among 37 patrols who competed in the annual event. This year the snow was light so most patrols opted to use sleds with wheels. We were very happy that for the second year in a row one of our patrols took 1st Place in the ‘standard’ division. Pictured here are the champion Spartans.

Be an Eagle Scout Sponsor

Our first Eagle Scout Sponsor is Allen Rebman, a member of our troop committee. An Eagle Scout from Troop 52, Allen worked at Camp Mattatuck in his youth. Currently the Vice President of a precision metal stamping firm, Allen has many hobbies, including archery, sailing, scuba diving, and fishing, and he maintains a part of the Mohawk Trail for the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

An Eagle Scout Sponsor pays \$100 to cover the expenses of a Court of Honor. We thank Allen for helping keep Scouting affordable for all boys. If you would like to sponsor an Eagle, please contact jleclair@tr52.com.

Eagle Project benefits Lake Winnemaug

Finn Lindstrom’s Eagle Project got underway on October 30th at Lake Winnemaug in Watertown. Finn was joined by Troop 52 Boy Scouts and adult leaders, students from Nonnewaug High School, and friends. Finn’s team of workers built artificial fish habitats on shore and then had them placed by boat at various points in the lake. The structures, which are made of man-made materials, are designed to mimic trees and branches. They will provide fish with a place to raise young, lay eggs, and protect them from predators. The artificial fish habitats were donated by the Bass Masters Association which had members on hand to help with the project.

(continued on page 6)

Service Projects

New Chair Racks for the Church

Adult Leader Oscar Bartlett recently unveiled three chair racks he built for Troop 52's sponsor, the Union Congregational Church. Each cart holds 30 chairs and were designed and built by Mr. Bartlett. The wheeled racks were needed because of the large number of chairs owned by the church exceeded available cart space. The carts will free up space on the stage that is taken up by stacked metal chairs.

The chair racks were constructed at Sullivan Brothers, LLC in Wolcott which specializes in commercial and residential building and restoration. Owner John Sullivan's son, Christopher, is the Patriotic Union Patrol Leader.

The racks are this year's annual contribution made by the troop to their long-time sponsor. The carts will soon get a fresh coat of paint by the Boy Scouts and be a useful addition to the church. Funding for the project was appropriated by the Troop Committee.



One of the three chair racks designed and built by adult leader Oscar Bartlett.

Outdoor Program

As all of you know, the Boy Scouts of Troop 52 rarely rest, even in the winter. This winter was no different as the troop had one of their most interesting winter camping seasons. It started at Camp Barbour during the weekend of November 19. On Saturday, the scouts and adult leaders were in short sleeves as the temperature hovered near 60°. On Sunday morning, however, the campers were greeted by freezing temperatures and 5 inches of wet snow. On that camp out "Be Prepared" was not only a motto, it was a necessity.

A month later, the campout that was to be held at Camp Hoyt on December 18 was cancelled due to poor weather.

Fortunately, the poor weather did not negatively affect two hikes held by the troop on January 7. One group of older and more advanced scouts hiked along the Appalachian Trail in Kent. Another crew of younger scouts hiked on the Mattatuck Trail from Peterson Park to Buttermilk Falls.

On the weekend of January 20, 13 of the troop's most active scouts spent the weekend at Camp Mattatuck's Mohawk Cabin.

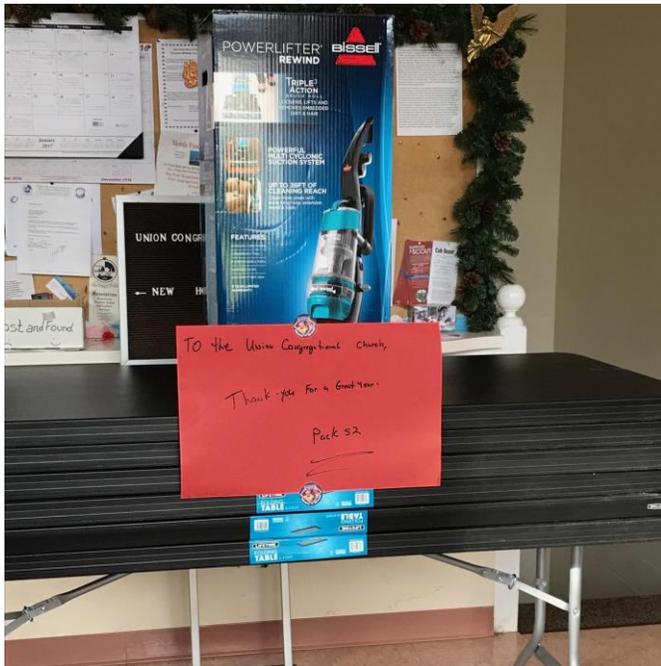


Scouts hiking along the Appalachian Trail in Kent, Connecticut.

Cub Scout Pack 52 News

Six Cub Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 52, pictured below, and two Cub Scouts from Pack 140 will soon crossover and join our Boy Scout troop. The eight scouts will be officially welcomed into Troop 52 at an induction ceremony to be held on March 29 at 7:30 PM.

In other Cub Scout News, Cub Scout Pack 52 recently made a donation of six large folding tables and a vacuum cleaner to the Union Congregational Church. The items are the pack's annual contribution to their long-time sponsor.



Finn Lindstrom's Eagle Project

(continued from page 4)

Finn's project is the latest Troop 52 Eagle Scout Project that has benefitted the town. It will be completed this spring after he completes a sign and places it near the boat launch on Lake Winnemaug Road.



Artificial Fish Habitats being placed in Lake Winnemaug

History of Troop 52 Books Still Available

A Century of Character, Honor and Good Deeds, A History of Troop 52 Oakville (1911 - 2016) is still available for purchase. The book is 121 pages long and contains many historical photographs. Either stop by a troop meeting or contact Bob Beres at (203) 768-5176 or rberes@tr52.com. The price is only \$15.00 each. To have a copy mailed, please add \$5.00 for shipping and handling. All proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the troop.