



Troop 52 Gazette



Allan W. Dodge, Troop 52's New Scoutmaster

On Wednesday, January 3, 2018, the Troop Committee unanimously voted Allan W. Dodge as troop's new Scoutmaster. Joseph LeClair, III announced in May 2017 his decision to step down after 40 years as head of the troop effective March 2018. As the new Scoutmaster, Allan Dodge joins a very select group. He will only be the troop's twelfth Scoutmaster, and, since 1926, only the seventh.

Dodge joined Troop 52 Oakville in March, 2003. He started as a Tiger Scout in Cub Scout Pack 52, but lost interest in the program. That interest was revived, however, when one of his best friends, Sean Grogan, who would later earn his Eagle Scout rank, encouraged Dodge to rejoin while he was in Webelos. He crossed over with that group into Troop 52.

Dodge joined the Ferocious Moose patrol, which had only recently been formed. He quickly distinguished himself as a hardworking and dedicated Boy Scout. He became their Patrol Leader a year and a half later. In Youth Leadership, Dodge first served as the troop's Quartermaster, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and finally, the Senior Patrol Leader. He was active with the Order of the Arrow and earned his Ordeal and Brotherhood in the Mattatuck Chapter and briefly served as Chapter Treasurer. He earned his Eagle Scout rank in the summer of 2010. For his Eagle Community Service Project, he cleared a lake trail down the western side of Merriman Pond at Crestbrook Golf Course.

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Mike Hanis Elected Senior Patrol Leader

Mike Hanis was elected Senior Patrol leader on Wednesday, February 15, 2018 during the troop's annual leadership election. Hanis will take over from Sam Goetz, who served the position with distinction. The following will make up this year's Youth Leadership Corps:

Joshua Garceau	Asst. Senior Patrol Leader
Kyle Robinson	Quartermaster
Chris Sullivan	Scribe
Steven LeClerc	Librarian
Alex Pillis	OA Representative

Following the election, the previous Youth Leadership Corps were selected to be Junior Assistant Scoutmasters. They are:

Wil Daddario
Spencer Dodge
Sam Goetz
David McClendon
Ian Wohlhieter

A week later, patrol elections were held. The results are as follows:

Atomic Badger Patrol:
Patrol Leader: Jesse Kaye

Purple Cobra Patrol:
Patrol Leader: Ryan Robinson

Patriotic Union Patrol:
Patrol Leader: Josh Scalo

Savage Beast Patrol:
Patrol Leader: Ben Bean

Spartan Patrol:
Patrol Leader: Caleb Bean

Purple Cobras Earn First Place in the 2018 Klondike Derby

On February 3, 2018, the Purple Cobra Patrol, led by Patrol Leader Mike Hanis, earned first place honors in the annual Mad River District Klondike Derby held at Camp Mattatuck. Three other Troop 52 patrols competed and two finished in the top five.

Of special note, the Boy Scouts were joined by some new faces this year - a patrol of Girl Scouts. The new challengers, however, did not shrink from the pressures of the competition - they excelled in it. They beat every Boy Scout patrol except one, our Purple Cobras.

When the troop set up their station, it was a frigid 6° F. Although the temperature did not get much higher, none of the Boy Scouts that competed seemed to notice as they raced from town to town. Recent snowfall covered the entire circuit and was more than adequate for the sleds to traverse the trails around Lake Kenosha.

Mayor Brian Shannon led Troop 52's "Ice Climbing" Station. The objective was to carry balls from one side of a climbing wall to the other. Climbers had to boulder across the width of the Climbing Tower using wooden 'ice climbing tools' designed and built by Shannon. The tools allowed the climbers to hook onto the tower's holds which mimicked a climb across a vertical ice formation. Scores were tabulated on the patrol's ability to perform the exercise, teamwork, effectiveness of the spotters, and spirit. The station, designed by Mayor Shannon, was voted most outstanding town by the scouts who participated. The troop's town, Skagway, was located in the shadows of the famed Camp Mattatuck climbing tower.

Advancement

Troop 52 is proud to announce the following Boy Scouts recently advanced in rank:

Matthew Beres	Eagle	11/15/17
Keith Acuna	First Class	11/29/17
Robert Rizk	First Class	12/20/17
Mattingly Creter	Second Class	01/31/18
Connor Fahy	Tenderfoot	10/25/17
Jason Hanis	Tenderfoot	10/25/17
Zachary Holt	Tenderfoot	10/25/17
Chase Relyea	Tenderfoot	01/31/18
Jacob Larlee	Scout	10/25/17



The Purple Cobra Patrol (l-r): Alex McCarthy, Luke Acuna, Nico Wenis, Michael Hanis, Jason Hanis, Ryan Robinson



Mayor Brian Shannon tabulating scores at the base of the Camp Mattatuck Climbing Tower.

In Memory of Joseph "Big Joe" LeClair

By Paul Hoffman

When I was about 9 years old, I met a gentleman; I did not realize how important he would be in my life. When I met him again at 11 and was being inducted into Troop 52, I was in awe of the gentleman who could snuff out a candle with his fingers and not get burned. A couple of weeks later, I went to him to ask a question. I said: Mr. LeClair.....and his first response was "Call me Joe."

Joe LeClair Jr. (Big Joe) was a person who knew how to teach people, talk to people and knew the Scouting program. In a time when women were not involved in the Scouting program he wanted to have a way for some of the mothers to get involved in the troop. So, he started the group that became known as the Mothers Auxiliary. This group has been very important to the troop. They are constantly fundraising for the boys in the troop to help defray some of the cost of camping and other aspects of the troop program.

Big Joe was not just involved in the troop as a Scoutmaster. Once he stepped down as Scoutmaster, he went on the Troop Committee where he took over the job of Troop Committee Chairman. Upon stepping down as chairman, he then went on to serve as Advancement Chairman. Joe's involvement did not end with the troop. He was very influential in the development of Camp Mattatuck, and even helped to design parts of camp and where things should be placed in camp. He helped in putting the stone and concrete face of the dam, some of the stone buildings in camp and building the amphitheater twice. He was a very important part of the summer camp parking crew. He participated in the parking program for over 40 years, putting time in on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesday nights.

Training leaders is very important in Scouting. Training in troop 52 starts at a very early age with Joe giving the boys the chance to lead (and fail if necessary) and then guiding the boys as to what should have happened, because Big Joe was an expert at this skill it is still carried on today. This did not stop at the troop level. Big Joe got very involved in training at the district level. He was part of the development team for the Takachin training course and was on the first training staff. He also was part of the staff for many years, which involved many meeting outside of the troop. Big Joe went on to take the prestigious Scouting training course called Woodbadge. Because of his participation, several other leaders in the troop also went on to be Woodbadge trained.

There have been many National Jamborees held in the U.S. Big Joe attended 4 National Jamborees, one as a youth and 3 as an adult so that others may enjoy this program.

There are many other stories, instances, and events where Big Joe was involved in Scouting. He was not one to look for awards for what he had done in Scouting, but he was given a few awards to be proud of during his service. The first one was the District Award of Merit, which is given for helping out and being involved in the district. The second award was the Silver Beaver award, which is given to a Scouter for his involvement in the council. Because of his involvement on the Order of the Arrow, Big Joe was elected to become a Vigil member of the OA.

This is just a sampling of what Big Joe did in Scouting, but you can see that he has affected the lives of thousands of people. He lived his life by following and living the Scout Oath and Law. Big Joe will be greatly missed in the local Scouting program, whether it is at troop meetings or at camp. I know that I miss his answer to one question. Every time I would ask him how he was doing his answer would always be the same "TERRIBLE". Then I knew he was good.

Troop Welcomes Two New Eagle Scouts

Troop 52 Oakville proudly welcomed their two newest Eagle Scouts, Nicholas Quicquaro and Matthew Beres, in Courts of Honor recently held in the Caroline Shaw Fellowship Hall of the Union Congregation Church.

Nicholas Quicquaro was honored on December 13, 2017. Nick joined the troop after he earned his Arrow of Light from Pack 55 Watertown. In his six years as a Troop 52 Boy Scout, Nick served as Patrol Leader of the Moose Patrol, the troop Librarian, and as an instructor.

Nick's Eagle Community Service Project benefitted his school, Holy Cross High School. He was joined by several Boy Scouts, friends, and family members and refurbished the school's courtyard. He and his team trimmed trees, painted metal edging and a large statue, raked and swept the grounds, planted flowers, and installed a bench flanked by two rose bushes. His project was completed in time for the school's graduation ceremony.

At his Eagle Court of Honor, two of Nick's teachers, James Buckley and Karen Brough, glowingly spoke of his character, dedication, and hard work ethic. Nick plans to pursue a business degree in college and become a personal financial consultant. Nick's sponsor was Kevin Chouinard.

On Sunday, January 7, 2018, the troop held an Eagle Court of Honor for one of their most active scouts, Matthew Beres. Matthew joined the troop with his older brother, Andrew, after a friend invited him to a troop meeting. In his nearly six years as a Boy Scout, he has distinguished himself as the Patrol Leader of the Atomic Badger Patrol, the troop's Senior Patrol Leader, and a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Matthew is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and for the past two years has been the Chapter Chief of the Mattatuck Chapter.

For his Eagle Community Service Project Matthew designed a butterfly garden which benefitted Kelly's Kids in Prospect. His crew, which consisted of Boy Scouts, adult leaders, family, and members of the Watertown High School robotics team, overturned soil, removed an incomprehensible large number of rocks, installed an arbor and benches, laid down mulch, and planted butterfly-attracting plants.

At his Eagle Court of Honor, Jeromy Nelson, director of Camp Mattatuck, Sean Conway, mentor for Black Magic Robotics, Eagle coach and mentor, Brian Shannon, Senior Patrol Leader Sam Goetz, and Assistant Scoutmaster John Vito spoke of Matthew's impressive leadership qualities, character, and his respect for others. Matthew will be attending Unity College in the fall and hopes to become a Ranger for the United States Parks Service. Matthew's sponsor was John and Jessica Charette.



Service Projects

Scouting for Food

Despite the frigid temperatures, Troop 52 Boy Scouts, Pack 52 Cub Scouts, and many adult leaders and volunteers performed their annual "Scouting for Food" food drive on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Armed with gloves, hats, wool socks and many layers of clothing, the volunteers worked so hard that the cold temperatures were quickly forgotten. Naturally, the hot chocolate and coffee prepared by Allan Dodge certainly helped. In all, the troop collected 660 bags of food, an increase of 90 bags from the previous year.

Scouting for Food began as a national good turn by the Boy Scouts of America in 1988. Since then, the troop has made it one of their most important scouting events of the year. The enormous amount of food collected by the troop will keep the Watertown Food Bank' shelves stocked for many months. However, the *Scouting for Food* drive alone cannot supply all of their needs for the entire year. Donations are always welcome and can be dropped off at the Park and Rec Department in the Watertown Municipal Center.



Outdoor Program

On the chilly weekend of November 18th, the troop tent camped at Camp Strange in Goshen, Connecticut. The campout was led by seven adult leaders. All of our Boy Scouts and adult leaders enjoyed the weekend at the camp owned by the Housatonic Council.

On the weekend of December 9th, 17 Boy Scouts and 4 adult leaders, Erich Wenis, Brian Shannon, Mike Wohlhieter, and Ray Zawislak, braved not only the cold but a lot of snow at their campout at Camp Sequassen. The scouts, as always, were well prepared and had a terrific time.

The chill, particularly the wind chill, significantly impacted a troop hike on January 6th. The temperatures were so cold that leadership aired on the side of caution and cancelled the event.

Fortunately, the cold temperatures did not adversely affect the Mohawk Cabin campout on two weeks later on January 19th to the 21st. 13 of the troop's most active Scouts participated, and were led by Assistant Scoutmasters Jim Doback, Allan Dodge, and Ray Zawislak .

On Saturday, February 17th, six scouts and two adult leaders, Ray Zawislak and Vin Pillis, spent the day at Ski Butternut in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Boy Scouts who had never strapped on a pair of skis or strapped in to a snowboard were encouraged to go. Less-experienced scouts were treated to free ski lessons from Ray Zawislak who was worked as a ski instructor in his youth. More experienced skiers / snowboarders worked on the Snow Sports Merit Badge.

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New Scoutmaster

In the summer of 2006, Dodge started work as a CIT at Camp Mattatuck. The following year, he joined Scoutcraft as a full-time staff member. He spent a total of four summers at Scoutcraft; two of which were as Director. The time he spent at Camp Mattatuck had a profound effect on the teenager. It was through his summer job that he decided to pursue a career in Civil Engineering.

In the fall of 2010, Dodge started his first semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York. Naturally, being a student at a challenging Engineering School severely limited his time with the troop. Four years later, he was graduated with a baccalaureate in Civil and Environmental Engineering. His first post-graduation job was at an Engineering firm in Syracuse. A year later, Dodge was back in Watertown and back with the troop. The years of him making towers and bridges out of rope and wooden spars at Scoutcraft served him well. He now works for the Division of Bridges for the CT Department of Transportation.

An immediate concern for the new Scoutmaster is to recruit younger adult leadership to take over for the adults that have come to the end of their camping and High Adventure careers. He also wants to develop a strong Alumni base.

When asked why he is dedicated to the troop, he related an important story and quote that he found so profound that it became part of his personal maxim. It was part of long-time troop member Paul Hoffman's speech delivered when he received the Watertown Rotary Club's Alves Award. After he had earned his Eagle Scout rank, Hoffman mentioned to his mother

that it marked the end of his scouting career and he was not sure if he was going to continue as an adult leader. His mother told him, "There was someone there for you, now you need to be there for them". Those words resonated with Dodge, and, since his return to Watertown, has been a very active adult leader.

For many years, Allan W. Dodge has been a valued member of the Troop 52 team. He admires the adult leaders that helped him achieve his most worthwhile goals. He also understands the dedication, the commitment, and the importance of scouting. The significance of the troop on his life is not lost on the 25 year old adult leader, who recently said, "I am truly grateful to have been a scout under the leadership of Joe and the other adult leaders of Troop 52. I credit a lot of my success in life to the Troop and the BSA program in general."

Third Annual Troop 52 Golf Classic to Be Held on June 9

Save the date! The Troop 52 Golf Subcommittee is pleased to announce the date for the Third Annual Troop 52 Golf Classic. The scramble tournament will take place on Saturday, June 9, 2018 and be held at Crestbrook Park in Watertown. Besides the 18 holes of golf, a steak barbeque prepared by Sunset Grille is planned for the evening. Beer and other refreshments will also be provided. Guests can enter to win the 50/50 raffle or many of the other raffle prizes.

In addition to the *Closest to the Pin* and *Longest Drive* competitions, other special golf-related events are planned. Of special note: Two Red Sox tickets for seats located right behind home plate, which were donated by Dr. John McHugh, will be given to the highest bidder in a silent auction. The date for the game has not been determined yet.

Cub Scout Pack 52 News

Pack 52 has had a very busy winter. In January, the pack held their Annual Pinewood Derby, and spent a weekend camping at 49ers cabin at Camp Mattatuck. This month, the 52 strong Cub Scout pack will spend the night at a lock-in in an indoor Rock Climbing gym. The Annual Blue and Gold Dinner will be held at the Grand Oak Villa on March 3, 2018.

Mothers' Auxiliary Announces Date for Annual Ziti Dinner

This year's Ziti Dinner will be held on April 7, 2018 at the Union Congregational Church. To make this eagerly anticipated event even more successful, the MA is looking for Raffle Items, Placemat Ads, and gift cards for the Gift Card Tree.

The dinner is the Mothers' Auxiliary's main fund-raising event and is held each spring. The funds raised help 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, the Union Congregational Church, and The Joseph and Yvonne LeClair Scholarship Fund.

For **raffle items**, email, txt or call Lisa Kaye at lisak215@optonline.net 203-233-7771.

For **placemat ads**, email, txt or call Diane Corona at dianecorona1@gmail.com 203-841-8344.

Join the Coffee Cup Challenge!

David Arnauckas was our outstanding Senior Patrol Leader and Eagle Scout in the 1980's. Now living in California, he is issuing a challenge to all the friends and alumni of Troop 52:

Each week, set aside a single dollar, less than the cost of a cup of coffee, to help keep Scouting affordable in Oakville.

Mail a check for \$52 to:
Troop 52

Union Congregational Church
167 Buckingham Street
Oakville, CT 06779

Through the Mothers' Auxiliary Ziti Dinner, Boy Scout Christmas Tree Ornament sales, and the Special Events Committee's Annual Golf Tournament, Troop 52 fundraising has greatly lowered the cost of Summer Camp, scouting events, and annual dues, but not to the point where we would like it to be.

We've already received checks from David and Beth Arnauckas, Yvonne Walsh, and Kathy Arnauckas. So...are you up to David's challenge?

Special Recognition Dinner For Joseph LeClair, III

The troop will be holding a special recognition dinner for Joseph LeClair, III on April 28, 2018 at the Camp Mattatuck Dining Hall. The event will recognize the nearly 50 years Joe has dedicated to scouting and the 40 years he has served as our Scoutmaster. A Strip Steak dinner will be served. Tickets are \$18.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children and Boy Scouts. For more information, please refer to the troop website: www.tr52.com.