

TROOP TRACKS

JULY 16, 2002 TROOP 228 NEWSLETTER ISSUE #72 ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 18, 1994
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 228 IS CHARTERED TO THE NORTHWEST HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SCOUTMASTER'S CORNER

I would like to take a moment and tell a tale that has often been told (and yes, you've probably already heard it). I would then like to add a little twist to the ending. This story was taken from "Chicken Soup for the Soul" by Jack Canfield and Mark V. Hansen. I've paraphrased the story a bit, but here goes....

A friend of ours was walking down a deserted beach at sunrise. As he waked along, he began to see another figure in the distance. As he grew nearer, he noticed that the figure kept leaning down, picking something up and throwing it out into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things out into the ocean. As our friend approached even closer, he noticed that it was a boy picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time, he was throwing them back into the water. Our friend
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SUMMER CAMP AT BUFFALO TRAILS SCOUT RANCH

Troop 228 took 37 boys and 16 adult leaders to summer camp at Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch from June 29 to July 6, 2002. Buffalo Trails is located in the Davis Mountains of west Texas, near Fort Davis.

The troop met at the church bright and early Saturday morning, June 29, 2002. We left by about 6:30 am and convoyed to a rest area to eat lunch. We reached Balmorhea (The Oasis of West Texas) at about 1:00 p.m., and set up camp. The boys went swimming in the river swimming pool, then had a great dinner of spaghetti and salads. Most of the group then left to go to the McDonald Observatory.

There was an interesting video, numerous telescopes set up to see different space items such as a ring nebula, colliding galaxies, double

stars, etc. The evening ended with a star party looking at all the visible constellations and learning the way to navigate from one constellation to another.

The troop arrived back at Balmorhea State Park early Sunday morning after the winding ride back. The troop slept under the stars very well and packed out late on Sunday morning after our Chapel Service.

The troop arrived at summer camp on Sunday about noon. Then we got to load all our stuff on trailers to go to the campsite. We had a nice leisurely 1/2 mile walk to our campsite from the camp headquarters area. Read more about Base Camp, The Cavalcade, and the Mountain Men.

REMINDER

Scouts paying dues monthly should get the money to Mrs. Harvey by the first Tuesday each month.

was puzzled. He approached the boy and said, "Good morning, friend. I was wondering what you are doing." "I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it's low tide right now and all of these starfish have been washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back into the sea, they'll die up here from lack of oxygen." "I understand," my friend replied, "but there must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You can't possibly get to all of them. There are simply too many. And don't you realize this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast? Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?" The boy smiled, bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and as he threw it back into the sea, he replied, "Made a difference to that one!"

Now that was the story most of you have heard in one form or another. And now for the rest of the story (sorry, I couldn't help it!)...

This made such an impression on our friend that he started right then and there to help the boy throw starfish back into the sea. Not long

after our friend started to help, a couple who were enjoying a morning jog along the beach came by. They struck up basically the same conversation our friend had with the boy. Before long, they too, were helping to throw starfish back into the sea. Soon after that some curious passersby saw them there and came down to see what was happening. They were as impressed as our friend was and they too began to throw starfish back into the sea. By the end of the day, when our friend looked around, all of the starfish had been thrown back into the sea! He was simply amazed. He went away that evening a changed person.

There are hundreds of thousands of boys around the world who can and often do, on their own, make a small difference in their part of the world. But, with a positive can-do attitude and perseverance, they can instill in others the willingness to help and in that way make an even bigger difference. We often call these boys Eagle Scouts. And to think... it just takes one starfish at a time!!

PATROL OF THE MONTH

You are being watched!!

We will announce the Patrol of the Month for July in August!! The winner will be chosen by the following criteria:

- Attendance
- Uniform Inspection
- Wearing Uniform of the Day
- Scout Spirit
- Use of the Patrol Method

If you have questions, please speak to Mr. Gill or Mr. Burt.

CANOE BASE 2004

If you enjoy canoeing and scenery, talk to Mr. Burt, Mr. Greene, Mr. Besel or any of the other canoers about this.

NOTICE

Anyone who has unfinished Merit Badge Counselor Applications please turn them into Mr. Gomez ASAP. "Pretty Please!!"

A POEM FROM BUFFALO TRAILS

AGUJA CANYON By

Pete Hardeman 1950

I stand alone on a midnight
bleak,
feeling definitely small and
weak, and watch the clouds
o'er the mountaintop,
pass in endless stream - they
never stop.
'Tis beauty and grandeur, a
thing divine,
this beautiful canyon, a lucky
find,
for the thousands of boys
who here will train,
and by their deeds enhance
its name.
Oh, tell them steep walls of
the secrets you hold,
of pioneers, battles, and war-
riors bold.
Of the game, the blind of the
winters could blast, and I'll
pray to God that your beauty
may last.
Let every boy have the best
you can give,
Make him a man, teach him
to live,
Place good in his heart, there
to remain,
Then, your inspiring beauty
will not have been in vain.
**(Mr. Hardeman cooked at
Scout camps in Texas and
New Mexico for 33 years).**

BASE CAMP

Mrs. Burt was the
Scoutmaster for Base Camp
at Buffalo Trails. Mrs.
Harvey, Mrs. Weatherby,
Mrs. Cornell Schoonover,
Mr. Abinsay, Mr. La Kemper,
and Mr. Laws assisted her in
running base camp and
crowd control.

We were there for Pink
Week - Mr. Smith just
looooves pink! Pink shower
curtains, pink dice, pink
sheets and pillowcases, pink
towels, pink mustache and
beard,... the Staff took very
good care of him.

There were 26 boys at
base camp most of the
week- working on numer-
ous merit badges and snor-
keling, and the mile swim.
The first night, we were vis-
ited by a trio of skunks,
witnessed by Mr. Lewis,
"Thanks for not scaring
them!" Mr. Green enjoyed
a "cool, soggy" experience
thanks to the Camp
Director, Mark Smith. He
enjoyed milk and cereal --
down his back!!

Base Camp Scouts were:
Chris Abinsay, Jerimar
Abinsay, Jorge Alvarez,
Richard Bruton, Ryan
Campbell, Kevin Eikman,

Nico Gallardo, Josh Garza,
Alex Gomez, Jacob Greene,
Josh Hill, Nathan Jaeb, Joel
La Kemper, Dustin Laws,
Joshua Lopez, Michael
McArdle, Matthew Muller,
Grant Murray, Nickolas Pinel,
Austin Ramey, Matthew
Steele, Joseph Stottlemire,
Jacob Sudds, Philip Voelkel,
Luke Weatherby, and Brad
Wettig. They worked on the
following different merit
badges: Horsemanship, Indian
Lore, Leatherwork,
Wilderness Survival, Rifle,
Shotgun, Woodcarving,
Basketry, First Aid, Swimming,
Emergency Preparedness,
Environmental Science,
Archery, Geology, Radio,
Animal Science, Cooking, Fish
and Wildlife Management, Soil
and Water Conservation,
Orienteering, Pioneering, and
Mammal Study. Some Scouts
also were able to do the Mile
swim and snorkeling.

Tuesday night Mrs. Harvey
fell in camp banging up a fin-
ger and leg. Wednesday as
the women were trying to
close all the tents in case of
rain, Mrs. Weatherby fell cut-
ting her lip badly. First aid
was administered in Camp
and then she was taken to the
health lodge. The medic at
the lodge stitched her lip, and
(continued next page)

LOOKING FORWARD

JULY- - Cedar Badge

AUGUST - Splashtown
- Den Chief Training
- Gulf Coast fishing trip
- working on
Fishing Merit Badge
- Annual Planning
Meeting
- Swim Party

CAVALCADE

Troop 228 had eight people on the Cavalcade at Buffalo Trails at Summer Camp. Mr. Burt - "Ringer" or "Space" rode Sweet Pea, Janaye Bruton- "Bonnie D." rode J.D., Andy Greene- "Push and Crack" rode Chipper the first three days, and then he rode Hot Sauce (because he couldn't kick Chipper anymore). Sam Gallardo- "S-a -a- a-m" rode Socks, Michael Burt- "The Negotiator" rode Snip, Michael Greene- "City Digger" rode Hot Sauce, and then Chipper the last two days. Joshua Cornell- "Pig Pen" rode Leroy, and Damian La Kemper- "Monkey Boy" rode Alice. The wranglers were Patty- "Ma" who rode Alamo, and Ryan- "Legs" who rode Casey.

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(Base Camp Continued)
she was fine other than looking like she and Mrs. Cornell Schoonover had a major fight. Wednesday we also won as Honor Troop. Later- about 1:37 a.m., the Wilderness Survival Crew came crawling back to camp to get out of the heavy winds roaring out of the mountains.

In Indian Lore, Singing Wolf taught games, Native American ceremonies, dancing, and the Smudging. She gave Cherokee names to those at the Smudging ceremony: Bear Woman- Mrs. Cornell Schoonover, Eagle Hawk Man- Chris Abinsay, Dancing Grizzly Bear- Luke Weatherby, Children's Warrior Woman- Joan Weatherby, Dancing Eagle- Richard Bruton, Red Dawn Wolf- Nico Gallardo, Mountain Lion- Grant Murray, Laughing Wolf- Nick Pinel, Eagle Elk- Dusty Laws, and Buffalo Eagle- Mr. Laws.

The following Scouts did the Mile Swim: Casey Lopez, Joseph Stottlemire, Jacob Greene, Michael McArdle, Alex Gomez Jr., and Brad Wettig.

Thanks to Mrs. Weatherby - everyone had a chance to make patriotic pins or neck-

4th. Mrs. Harvey finally got it, but she remains "Beadlexic".

Thursday evening we had wonderful stew prepared by Mrs. Burt and Mrs. Harvey. During that night we had several big blows and rains. However, we managed to stay nearly dry throughout camp. The troop worked Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday to complete the three service hours each for the Pondweed award. We dug a trench in the corral to make a place for a future retaining wall, we carried and dumped the above rocks, and we cleared the road near our camp of large rocks and raked it clear, placing a beautiful border of huge rocks along the road's edge. It really looked much better when we left it!! Way to go Troop 228.

Friday Jacob Sudds got all the fun - he got to put ice down Mark Smith's back and got his hat also. Lucky boy!

Also congratulations to Michael McCardle and Alex Napoleon Gomez, two of our older scouts who took charge and helped lead the Troop at base camp during the week of camp. These two boys were AWESOME - and deserved to be named as the Honor Campers for 2002.

CHOKO CANYON CAMPOUT

Troop 228 went to Choke Canyon June 14-16. The Scouts worked on the finishing up rank advancements, and finishing some partial merit badges. Several boys finished their Tenderfoot requirements, and the Boards of Review were scheduled for Summer Camp. Thanks to Josh Lopez, who finished three merit badges, the whole troop got to swim at the nearby pool. The river was too low for good swimming.

The troop had the pleasant company of a herd of javelinas when setting up, they also saw alligators, a Mexican eagle, a quail, a coyote, a Road runner, a tarantula, and deer. Michael Burt almost came eye to eye with an alligator. Mrs. Bruton fed javalina from her hand, which I guess they liked. Later they came back looking for extra. They got into some coolers and ate the food from the Cobra and Owl Patrols

The adults had a steak dinner since it was Father's Day weekend. It was a very successful campout with lots of progress made by numerous Scouts!

HOW DO I WORK ON A NEW MERIT BADGE?

If you are a First Class Scout or above, and you want to work on a new merit badge or finish a partial- what do you do?

Start by speaking to Mrs. Vera if you have a partial or if you are unsure of your status with any merit badges. As our advancement chairperson, she keeps track of all merit badges as well as rank advancements. She will give you a copy of your partial for your merit badge counselor. After checking with Mrs. Vera, you need to speak with Mr. Gomez to see who the Troop merit badge counselor is for that badge. You will need to take the form to your counselor and plan how you will finish it.

If you are starting a new merit badge, go first to Mr. Gomez. He will give you a small blue merit badge card and show you the list of counselors in the troop. You must have the card signed by the Scoutmaster and your merit badge counselor. You and your counselor will plan out how to accomplish your
(Continued next column)

(Merit Badges continued)
requirements for the badge. Please see Mr. Gomez if you are having trouble with talking to your counselor or any other problems completing the badge. The Troop has a library with many Merit Badge Books. You need to check out a book with the Troop Librarian- currently Jay Alvarado. If we do not have the book in the Library, they are also available at the Musselman's Scout Shop.

ATTENTION
MERIT BADGE
COUNSELORS ARE NEEDED
for the following badges:
Archery
Personal Management
Personal Fitness
American Business
Citizenship in the Community
Citizenship in the Nation
Citizenship in the World
Please see Mr. Gomez for
any questions or for applica-
tions.



Scouts
is a

BLAST!

By
Jacob
Sudds

(Cavalcade continued)

They slept under the stars, and enjoyed trail meals. Michael Greene had lots of fun digging, everyone enjoyed the outdoor potty, and Mr. Burt and Mr. Gallardo both got to race their horses on foot. I think the horse won even though they were eventually caught. They saw a rattlesnake on the way back from the Cliff after "The Wave" to the campers below. They then went to the first cabin for dinner and sleep.

They rode for about 6 hours the second day and about 6 hours on the third day, coming back to camp around 5:30 p.m. They had their ritual jump in the pool- all dirty and trail-nasty, then they washed off the "trail" for dinner.

Thursday just after lunch, they left again to go to the top of the Black Trail to meet up with the Mountain Men to watch the fireworks. They also got rained on up there, and set up primitive shelters in the pouring rain.

Friday morning they rode down the short, steep side of the Black Trail and almost lost "Push and Crack" when his horse, Hot Sauce, got hungry and went up instead of down

MERIT BADGE MAKE-UP

There will be a make-up day on Saturday, July 27th, for all incomplete Merit Badges from all previous Summer Camps and Winter Camps and any other outstanding Merit Badges.

If you have an incomplete Merit Badge, check with Mr. Gomez to be sure he is planning to cover that badge. He needs to know early to be sure all possible counselors can be present. Thanks!!

(Cavalcade continued)
on a narrow switch back. He had to reel in the horse and jump down twice as far to the next level!! The trail is about 80 degrees at some points anyway, so it was a bit hairy at times!!

However, Troop 228's Cavalcade set a Camp record - not one person fell off their horse all week!! And considering a couple of the horses - it isn't because the horse didn't try!

If you ever want to experience the wonders of God's Country up close and personal, sign up for a future Cavalcade!

MOUNTAIN MEN

Troop 228 had eleven people in the Mountain Man program at Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch. Mr. Alvarez, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Bankey, Mr. Gomez, Eddie Alvarez, Casey Lopez, Philip Bankey, Jerrid Stottlemire, Nick Marek, Charlie Peterson, and Nik Irizarry enjoyed the wonderful food, scenery, and the wildlife.

They got to tan a deerhide, throw the "hawk" and knives. They got to clean up and "go to town" to visit the local snake farm and have one pound hamburgers at "Pops". On Wednesday night the "Mountain Men" came running back to camp after losing tents and other objects in ferocious winds. "They were worried about us back at base camp" - Uh-huh! On Thursday night they get to climb the killer Black Trail and watch the fireworks from Pecos and Alpine. They along with Cavalcade got poured on. But they made it back to camp before noon on Friday. It's amazing how rested they looked all week!

"Welcome back to Texas," Mr. Alvarez!!

Friday evening they got their Mountain Man names. Mr.

EAGLE PROJECT

Tony Besel is planning his Eagle Project for August. He will collect gently used and new toys and clothes, blankets, diapers, etc. for the SAMM shelter (San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries).

Collections will be held:
8/24/02 Great Northwest Pools (both of them)
8/25/02 Northwest Hills UMC.

Please talk to Tony about any assistance he might need if you need **service hours** and look through your room or garage to see if you have anything to donate.

(Mountain Man continued)

Alvarez became "Cawing Crow", Mr. Lewis was "Big Bear", Mr. Bankey was "Lazy Lizard", they probably had a hard time figuring out who to give that name too!! Mr. Gomez was "Running Wolf", Eddie Alvarez was "Hacking Javalina", Philip Bankey was "Whispering Pine", Jerrod Stottlemire was "Quiet Woodpecker", Nick Marek was "Wandering Lizard", Nick Irizarry was "Glaring Bobcat", Charlie Peterson was "Hoot Owl", Mr. Harvey was Owl Eagle, and Casey Lopez was Running Coyote.

OA UPDATES

By Charlie Peterson

The Section Conclave will be held July 19-21st at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Hurry up and register if you are interested!!

The cost is \$75.00 for the weekend and \$30.00 plus transportation if you want to go just for the day. It will be fun!! There will be classes and competition.

The 3rd Ordeal for OA will be August 2-4, 2002 at Bear Creek.

We need members to help out and need Brotherhood members to help with the ceremony.

For all members going to the **Indian Heritage Meeting**, the meeting will be held all Thursdays except the first at Northwest Church of Christ (at 1604 & Braun Rd). **If you need more information talk to Charlie Peterson, Mr. Swell, or Mr. Strye.**

Paseo Del Rio Canoe Challenge

By Mr. Besel

Ready - Set - Go!!

Once a year, this city association sponsors a 1 1/4 mile canoe race along the downtown riverwalk. That's right! You get to paddle the San Antonio River! Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to compete in this Olympian event.

All you need is a **\$5.00 registration fee** and a partner to pair with in your canoe. You will race against individuals in your age group. **Everything is supplied: canoes, paddles, lifevests, water, soda, and you get a cool T-shirt** to show you are a competitor (you can wear this as a Class C Scout shirt in future scouting events).

Sign up now on the Troop 228 Bulletin Board. **If you have questions or need more information call Mr. Besel at 682-2467.**

Sat. 8/24/02