

# *Troop 9 Pawcatuck News*

April & May 2010

Website: [www.troop9pawcatuck.com](http://www.troop9pawcatuck.com)

(Visit for up-to-date information on activities and to check out the Discussion Forum)

## *Troop 9 News*

**Mar. 25 : Eagle Board of Review** - 7:30 p.m., St. Michael Convent for Tom Manning

**Mar. 27 : Spring Clean-Up** - 9:00 a.m., St. Michael Cemetery at the end of Stillman Avenue.

**April 7 : Duck Race Ticket Sales End** - Excellent fundraising opportunity for the troop, pack and crew. Sales end in a few weeks. April 7th last day to submit sales.

**Apr. 9 - 11 : Backpacking Trip** - Camp at Keegan Cabin on Friday night. Saturday morning, commute to Tippicannsett trail head on Beach Pond, then hike back to Cabin. About 7-8 miles, should take about 5 hours. Pick up time is 9 a.m. on Sunday.

**May 7 - 9: Canoeing Trip** - Camp Friday at Aquapaug Scout Camp in North Kingston. Saturday load camping gear into truck, paddle across Worden's Pond into Pawcatuck River. Camp Saturday at Gardner River campsite; Sunday continue down river to Westerly Boat launch, opposite McQuades Marketplace, arrive about 3 p.m. About 26 miles over the 2 days; not for weak of back or faint of heart as we paddle all day and run several sets of Class 1 rapids.

**May 15 : Webelos Crossover** - Camp Kitchtau, Lower Pawcatuck. Our new Webelos Scouts from Pack 2 and Pack 9 will cross over to the troop on the traditional "zip line."

**May 26 : Flags at St. Michael Cemeteries** - Troop will be replacing the flags on the graves of the veterans at St. Michael Old & New Cemeteries

**June 4 - 6 : Camp Kitchtau** - Camp at "Troop 9" site Friday night to Sunday morning. Catch up on Merit Badge work, rank advancement, hike through Barn Island. Pick up time is 9 a.m. on Sunday morning.

## *More detail on following activities in future newsletters*

**July 4 - 11 : Summer Camp at Yawgoog Scout Reservation** - Information on summer camp available at troop meetings soon. Final details in the June/July newsletter.

**July 28 - Aug. 1 : National Jamboree Hi-Ad Trip** - See article in this newsletter about the National Jamboree Trip.

## *Venture Crew 9 News*

**March 19 - 21 : Green Mountain Hike** - The Venture Cru summited Killington Mt. in good form on March 20th and had a great snowshoeing and sledding trip. On the trip were Sarah M, Eli M, Brian M, Ian Hiltz, Pat C, Mike and Karen Cryan.

**April 10 - 11 : Wilderness First Aid Course** - Solo Wilderness First Aid course at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. Cost is \$149, highly recommended for Venture

Scouts going for Ranger Award or Adult Leaders looking for advanced first aid to be used in the woods. Contact **Pat Cryan** for registration information and details.

### *Pack 9 News*

**Apr. 18 : Service Project** - Pack 9 is planning a clean up day at Spellman Park behind Stonington High School on April 18.

**May 15 - 16 : Pack Overnight & Webelos Crossover** - Annual Crossover and Pack Meeting Overnight at Camp Kitchtau. The scouts from Pack 9 Pawcatuck and Pack 2 Dunns Corners will be crossing over on a zip line to Troop 9! Please join us for the last pack meeting of the year.

*Pack 9 has been busy recently!*

**Blue and Gold** - The Pack had a good time at the Blue and Gold on Feb. 21st. Cub scouts had the opportunity to earn special Century of Scouting patch by visiting displays and answering questions in a special scouting quiz. The pack will miss the Webelos II who crossed over into Troop 9 that night. (See *New Scouts, Welcome* article for names). Special thanks to Troop 9 for cooking and serving dinner; the food was great!

**Science Center Overnight** - At an overnight to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford on Mar. 6-7, scouts **Adam Bryant, Zach Capizzano, John Drago, Alton and Spencer Jones, Ryan Kelly, Glen Moffitt, Adam and Patrick Nadeau, Ian Whewell** and little sisters **Celia Moffitt and Abby Nadeau** participated in the Super Science Challenge 2010. Activities included exploring the museum, watching 3-D movie on *The Wild Ocean*, and designing and building a craft to protect an egg from the trauma of a crash. Highlight of the night was the *eggs-citing* egg drop, as each egg vehicle was dropped from a height of over one hundred feet to test its sturdiness.

**Pinewood Derby** - Annual Pinewood Derby on Mar. 21st was a grand success. The entries reflected the scouts' hard work on their cars. Congratulations to the overall winners: 1st: **Aidan Fontaine**; 2nd: **Gavin Kerfus**; 3rd: **Adam Bryant**; 4th/Alternate: **Rowan Urbec**; Best in Show: **Eric Moldenhauer** (M-1 Tank); Most Original: **John Drago** (Hot dog mobile). We wish them luck in the district derby on April 10th. Other winners included: **Daniel Robinson, Jacob Cannon, Cameron Rodriguez, Austin Serio, Glen Moffitt and Anthony Ramirez**. Scouts who recently crossed over into the troop also participated, but competed only against each other. Congratulations to the winners among the former Webelos: 1st: **Noah Pereira**; 2nd: **Patrick Nadeau**; 3rd: **Adam Nadeau**.

**For Pack Info** - contact **Mike Whewell** (599-8199) or **Charlie Burger** (460-6326)

### *Troop 9 Alumni News*

**Apr. 7 : Alumni Meeting** - Next meeting at 7:00 p.m., Pawcatuck Middle School. Come up Mayflower Ave., parking lot's in front of you when you cross Field St. Meet in cafeteria, building in front of parking lot. Meetings: *Apr. 7, May 5, June 2 and July 7*.

**Sept. 25 : The Date is Set! Reunion of St. Michael Scouts** - Final decision on date for the reunion ... *Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2010*. More details as we work out the plans. Still seeking names and addresses for the Reunion mailing. Send them to Larry O'Keefe by email (LOKeefe@aol.com) or by snail mail (134 Stephen Dr., Stonington, CT 06378)

## *Awards and Recognitions*

### *Rank Advancements*

*Scout Award:* **Zachary Capizzano, Christian Curioso, John Drago, Alex Gomes, Tristan Hall, Rees Harold, Lucas Hiltz, Alton Jones, Spencer Jones, Andrew McCauley, Joseph McClain, Drew Murdock, Adam Nadeau, Patrick Nadeau, Noah Pereira, Dylan Ruddock, Marcus Tipple, Ian Whewell**

*Tenderfoot:* **Andrew McCauley**

*Second Class:* **Andrew McCauley, Ryan Murphy**

*First Class:* **Nate Bennett**

*Arrow of Light:* **Alex Gomes, Tristan Hall, Rees Harold, Lucas Hiltz, Joseph McClain, Drew Murdock, Dylan Ruddock**

### *Merit Badges*

**Tom Manning:** Communications

**Brian Murphy:** Personal Management

### *Other Awards*

*Council Strip:* **Andrew McCauley**

*Raven Patrol:* **Will Robinson**

*Recruiter:* **Ryan Murphy, Will Robinson, Caleb Whewell**

*Red Epaulets:* **Nate Bennett**

*Totin' Chit:* **Andrew McCauley**

*Yawgoog Segments:* **Brian Murphy** (Staff segment)

### *Congratulations to Tom Manning*

As you read this newsletter, **Tom** will be completing a Board of Review for Eagle Scout; the final step before he becomes the 66th Eagle Scout in Troop 9. Congratulations, **Tom!**

### *Congratulations to the new Troop Leaders*

*Senior Patrol Leader:* **Brian M. Murphy**

*Asst. Senior Patrol Leader:* **Will Robinson**

*Junior Asst. Scoutmaster:* **Eli Miner, Tom Manning**

*Instructor:* **Kevin Duignan, Pelle Persson, Caleb Whewell**

*Troop Guide:* **Mike Pauly**

*Patrol Leaders:* **Shawn Bahr, Nate Bennett, Rees Harold, Andrew McCauley**

*Asst. Patrol Leaders:* **Devyn Breault, Lucas Hiltz, Nick Robinson**

### *More News and Information*

**New Scouts, Welcome to Troop 9** - Since this fall the troop has doubled in size. We've welcomed 20 new scouts, including large groups from Packs 2 Dunns Corners and 9 Pawcatuck. A warm welcome to our new scouts: **James Costa, Andrew McCauley; Pack 9 Scouts: Garrett Burger, Zach Capizzano, Christian Curioso, John Drago, Alton Jones, Spencer Jones, Adam Nadeau, Patrick Nadeau, Noah Pereira, Marcus Tipple, Ian Whewell; Pack 2 Scouts: Alex Gomes, Tristan Hall, Rees Harold, Lucas Hiltz, Joseph McClain, Drew Murdock, Dylan Ruddock.**

**Service Projects** - The troop did our annual service project for Pack 9 by preparing and serving the dinner for the Blue & Gold night on Feb. 21st. In March we'll help to clean up the parish cemeteries and in May will place flags on the graves of our veterans.

**Fundraisers** - *Popcorn Sale* now complete but scouts can participate in an Online Sale to raise funds for summer camp. Go to [www.trails-end.com](http://www.trails-end.com) or see troop leaders for instructions. *Pawcatuck River Duck Race Ticket Sale* still ongoing; ends April 7th. Race is April 25th. For each ticket scout sells, he can earn close to \$2 profit for his account.

*Please continue encouraging your scout to take advantage of troop fundraisers to earn funds for his scouting activities.*

**Troop 9 Finances** - The following information on troop finances was in the last newsletter. Because it's important info, we've reprinted it once more in this issue.

***Annual Dues:*** Dues for participation in Troop 9 scouting are \$50 per scout. Paid in the fall for September through August scouting year and include the following expenses for each scout: annual registration, "Boys Life," award badges, Yawgoog patch segments.

***Payment for Scouting Activities:*** Overdue payments for previous activities and annual dues should have been resolved by now. The troop policy is scouts "pay as you go" for troop activities. *Payment before participation will be expected.* If this is a hardship, a scout's parents should contact a troop leader. We'll make arrangements for that specific event. No scout should ever miss an activity because of financial hardship. Scouts who have funds in their scout account will be able to use those funds to help pay for events.

**National Jamboree Trip "100th Anniversary of Scouting"** - Every four years BSA holds a gathering for scouts from all over the nation and the world. There are usually 40,000-50,000 participants. The 2010 Jamboree will be at Fort A. P. Hill in Bowling Green, Virginia - a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of scouting in America. Our Hi-Adventure trip will be to participate as visitors at this special Jamboree. **Bill & Phyllis Darrough** of Troop 996 in Alexandria, VA, will host us on their riverfront property in Reedsville, VA, south of the Jamboree site. Using this location as a base, we'll drive up to the Jamboree to participate in this great event. We leave for Virginia on July 28th, will attend the Jamboree over the weekend, including a night at the grand 100th Anniversary Scout Show in the amphitheater, and be back home on Aug. 1st. Watch for more information and details as plans for this once-in-a-lifetime trip unfold.

### ***Winter Weekend in New Hampshire***

by **Sarah Morin**

This past month, the Troop 9 scouts and a few of the Venture Crew members attended the annual ski trip to New Hampshire. While most of the boy scouts went skiing, the crew embarked on a snowshoeing trek following Crawford Path up to Mizpah Hut and the summit of Mt. Pierce. Our group was composed of leaders **Karen C., Pat C., Ray D., Mr. Murphy, Mr. Hiltz, Eli M., Sarah M., Reese H., Lucas H. and Andrew M.**

The beginning of the hike went smoothly. The trails were perfectly packed down and the group was moving at a quick pace. Once we got to Mizpah cutoff for a quick snack, a few hikers alerted us that the trail up to Mizpah Hut was completely buried underneath many feet of snow. The group agreed that it was worth trying to find the trail. Using a

trail map, compass, GPS, and knowledge of the area, Pat led the group toward the hut, breaking trail the entire way. After weaving ourselves through bushes and trees, we eventually came upon Mizpah Hut and had lunch. Looking at my surroundings, I noticed that the hut seemed rather short, but this was because a snow drift about ten feet high was cascading down the side.

When everyone was finished, Pat used his handy GPS to lead us through the trees, north to Mt. Pierce. Each of us took turns breaking out the trail until we got to a clearing and stopped to admire a breathtaking view of the Presidential Mountain Range. There wasn't a cloud in the pristine blue sky. The summit of Mt. Pierce could be seen not far away, so we all kept moving to get to the top. At this point, most of the group was tired from treading through snow, but were all trying to keep a positive attitude.

Winds were picking up after we had reached the summit, and rime ice had covered everything. The Crawford Path trail sign was nowhere to be seen, so Pat decided to lead us down the side of the mountain to get shelter from the strong wind. We all made our way down carefully into the woods and began to navigate back to the Crawford Path and the easier travel it offered. We regained the trail lower down on the mountain and were relieved to be back on familiar territory.

Racing against the sunset, everyone was exhausted and stopped for one last snack break. The sky kept getting darker and darker, but many members of the group were prepared with headlights, just in case we were hiking in the dark. With the parking lot in sight, we all filed out of the woods and quickly got into our warm cars to head back to the Mountain View Lodge, where hot food was waiting for us.

In the end, it was a successful snowshoeing trip. A good time was had by all that were involved and many great memories were formed.

### *Senior Patrol Leader's Minute*

So much has happened since I've taken the helm in the troop. First of all, the biggest change for us would be that we doubled in size in less than a month. This led to another change, in fact the whole leadership structure changed; we now have multiple instructors and 5 patrols. As weeks start turning into months, I'm trying to learn and to remember everyone's name. I'm at about 50%. It takes awhile for everyone, but for the new scouts, all of you will have fit into the troop within the next 2-3 weeks. The transition takes time. I know; I was once in your position about five years ago. It took me about two months to start to feel comfortable and to get to know everybody. Just be yourself, do what you're told, and everything will work out fine. Right now, just don't worry.

Just a few weeks ago the troop and the Venture Cru took our traditional yearly trip up north on the great Ski Trip. Yes, there was skiing, snowboarding, tubing, as well as our own **Shawn Bahr** racing in a sled race. Most of us spent the day up at Tenney Mountain in Plymouth, New Hampshire. During that time, the Venture Cru went on a snowshoe hike up Mt. Pierce. With them were two first years (new Webelos scouts), and how **Eli Miner** put it was that "they should be honorary Venture scouts." They both did a great job on the hike. Everyone said that, while we were hanging around in the cabin that night. Overall, it was a great trip. Hopefully more like this will happen in the coming months. — **Brian M. Murphy**, Senior Patrol Leader

Troop 9 Pawcatuck  
c/o: Larry O'Keefe  
134 Stephen Dr.  
Stonington, CT 06378