



# The Fireside Chat

**Troop**  
**461**  
Souderton, PA

February 2010

[www.soudertontroop461.org](http://www.soudertontroop461.org)

In Memory.....

Scoutmaster Emeritus Harold J. Frederick, Jr., passed away on Monday, January 18, 2010. In 1956, Harold was instrumental in reorganizing Troop 2 for Zion Mennonite Church which has grown into the troop we are today. During his 50 years of leadership, our boys enjoyed many camping trips to Haliburton Scout Reserve, Ontario Canada, Citta Scout Reservation, New Jersey, Resica Falls and Ockanickon just to name a few.

One of Harold's greatest pleasures was the fact that 68 scouts had obtained their Eagle Scout Award (the highest rank which can be earned by a scout) under his leadership. Although Harold will no longer be with us, his years of dedication and service to the troop will live on as our Troop continues to grow.



### **Scouts on the move...**

Camping merit badges were awarded to Adam Gambone and Andrew van der Kleut. Scout Rank was awarded to Tate Gordon, and Aaron Gутtenplan. Life Rank was awarded to Andrew van der Kleut. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

**Interested in working on a certain merit badge?** Stop and see Mrs. Rhoads at any scout meeting and she will supply you with the required paperwork needed and arrange for you to work with a counselor.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- February 5-7 General Nash Klondike Derby – Camp Hart, Green Lane
- February 8 – Scouting 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- February 15 – Order of the Arrow nominations
- March 6 – District First Aid Meet, Hatfield, PA
- March 18 – General Nash District Adult Recognition Dinner, ICN Church, Lansdale
- March 26-28 – Gettysburg Historical Trails Camp, Gettysburg, PA
- April 23-25 – Scout Craft Camp, Delmont Camp Reserve
- May 14-16 – Fishing Weekend, Benton, PA
- May 2010 – Semi-Annual Troop Court of Honor – Zion Mennonite Church
- June 18-20 – Annual Shooting Sports Weekend – Bechtelsville
- July 2010 – Annual Summer Camp – Ockanickon Scout Reservation

### **Troop Contacts:**

- Scoutmaster: Tim Wile (215) 362-7121
- Asst. Scoutmaster: Ernie Gambone (215) 721-7456
- SPL: Andrew van der Kleut (215) 723-7857
- Committee Chair: Russ Bragg (215) 256-0280
- Advancement Chair: Kathy Rhoads (215) 721-1908

### **Did you know.....**

When scouting began in the United States, there were three class of scouts: Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. When a boy became First Class he could work on and qualify for merit badges. These badges were intended to stimulate the boy's interest in the life about him and were given for general knowledge.

First Class scouts who earned the following five merit badges: First Aid, Athletics, Life-Saving, Personal Health, and Public Health were entitled to wear the Life Scout badge.

You will notice that all the five merit badges for Life Scout centered around health and fitness. The heart of the Life Scout badge was a fitting symbol for these badges. The Star badge was given to the First Class scout who qualified for ten merit badges including the badges under Life Scout. The star, a symbol on our flag, was a fitting symbol for recognizing a boy who had achieved a higher level of recognition.

**Scout Oath:** On my honor I will do my best, to do my duty, to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

**Scout Law:** A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

The order of Life before Star remained until 1927. In 1927, scouting organizers realized that to go from Life to Star was reasonably easy since any five additional merit badges were required. So the switch was made to have Star requiring any five merit badges (possibly because the star had five points) come before Life which now would require the five required health and fitness merit badges plus any five earned as a Star Scout.

### **Historical Merit Badges:**

Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boy Scouting in the United States, 4 historical merit badges can be earned during the calendar year 2010. They are:

Carpentry      Pathfinding      Signaling      Tracking



All four badges were introduced to scouting in 1910 and 1911 and retired in 1952. Anyone who may be interested in earning these historic badges please let Mrs. Rhoads or Mr. Bragg know so that counselors can be identified to work with you. Again, these are a one-time only offered badge and must be completed by calendar year ending 31 December 2010.

### **Winter Camping Trip to Bechtelsville:**

On Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, our troop set out for a shooting sports camping trip at the Community Rod & Gun Club of Bechtelsville for a winter camping trip. Among the campers were scouts, Aaron Guttenplan, Walter Coyne, Jake Aleman, Brandon Rhoads, and Anthony Rivellini. Adult leaders, Tim Wile, Ernie Gambone, Tom Isban, Brian McKown, and Andrew Cowles.

The Scouts began Saturday's activities by shooting .22 caliber rifles on the Club's rifle range. The balance of Saturday morning up through lunch was taken up by this activity and the Scouts went through over 600 rounds of .22 long rifle ammunition.

Following lunch, the Scouts were treated to a demonstration of antique black powder shooting. Scoutmaster Tim Wile brought his 58 caliber Model 1855 rifle musket to show the Scouts and leaders how a Civil War era musket was loaded and fired. After showing the Scouts how to load and fire the musket, the leaders and Scouts were allowed to actually fire the musket under the supervision of SM Wile.

After the black powder shooting, the Scouts were treated to a demonstration with various types of pistols and revolvers that were brought by several of the adult leaders. The pistols and revolvers demonstrated ranged from .22LR revolvers to .45ACP pistols.

No Bechtelsville camping trip would have been complete without a Saturday night trip to Zern's Farmer's Market in Gilbertsville. While some of the adult leaders stayed behind, ASM Andrew Cowles and Brian McKown braved the elements, and the Zern-a-holic Scouts for the traditional trek.

Once again, ASM Ernie Gambone was responsible for the meals and no one went away hungry. The newer Scouts present had the opportunity to complete their Tenderfoot cooking requirements during the weekend.



### **Wanted!**

A few new scouts. If you have any friends who are interested in camping, hiking, and having fun, bring them to a meeting. Our troop is looking to grow.

### **Upcoming Newsletters:**

If you have something you would like to see in a future Troop newsletter, please let us know. Information can be given to Maria van der Kleut or Kathy Rhoads.

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