

Troop 219 Informational Handout

(www.troop-219.org or www.troop219.org)

● **Bad News over the Holidays**

The family of Scout Mike Falaris suffered a major accident Friday, December 27th leaving Mike's mom, Mary, in critical condition at Hurley hospital with extensive burns. Details appeared on Page A3 in the Tuesday, December 31st Flint Journal. The thoughts, prayers and best wishes of everyone associated with our troop go out to Mike, his mom and the entire family in their time of crisis.

Also on December 30th, Don Church, camp name Grizzly (Yogi's dad), who headed shooting sports at Camp Tapico for many years passed away, he was 56. Don was a very active Scouter and many Scouts and adults from our troop knew Don and we'll miss him.

● **Scout Sunday Church Service and Pancake Breakfast – February 2, 2003**

The twelfth point of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Reverent." Being reverent means many things but within the Boy Scouts, it starts with a personal belief in God and a strong respect for the religious beliefs of others. Our troop is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church although I believe that only a minority of our troop membership belongs or attends worship services at this church.

This year, on Scout Sunday (February 2nd), the troop will live up to the twelfth point of the Scout Law in the following way: Early in the morning we will hold a pancake breakfast at the church. Scouts will help cook, serve and clean up (you'll be fed, too) After that, we'll attend the 10:30AM service upstairs and assist with ushering, reading or any other services we're asked to perform. Scouts should arrive at the church by 7:00AM in full Scout (Class A) uniform.

All Scouts are expected to attend, in full uniform. I expect you to make whatever arrangements you need to fulfill your own, different religious responsibilities either beforehand or afterward IF attending this service does not fulfill your personal devotional requirements. Because of the importance of this particular point of the Scout Law as well as the importance of showing appreciation to our sponsoring organization, I will weigh participation in this particular activity heavily in considering the "scout spirit" advancement requirement for all ranks. Co-incidentally, the pancake breakfast is expected to result as a fundraiser for the troop (9th point of the scout law).

● **New Horizons District Swim Program – January 10**

The third and final session is scheduled for THIS FRIDAY, January 10 at the pool in the Grand Blanc Middle School. It's too late to begin either Swimming or Lifesaving merit badges, but Scouts who attended previous sessions can complete them at this session, scouts who have not yet attended may still complete 2nd Class or 1st Class rank requirements. Lifesaving merit badge begins at 7:00PM, all other Boy Scout sessions begin at 8:00PM; Webelos Aquanaut program runs 7PM – 8PM.

● **Klondike Derby – January 17, 18, 19**

Registration is/was due TONIGHT. Cost for the weekend is \$20. This is a COLD WEATHER activity – Scouts will be outdoors for at least 6 – 8 continuous hours, weather notwithstanding; and no scouts will be allowed "on the trail" unless properly dressed and prepared for the weather. We'll be spending some time over the next meetings getting ready for Klondike. We'll be staying indoors at Nottingham, the new dining hall sharing space with Troop 212. Klondike patrols will be announced as soon as possible through the Patrol Leaders Council communications network – so check with your patrol leader. Currently I'm scheduled to run the "hidden city" along with two troop Scouts.

● **Fundraiser Pinewood Derby – January 11**

We will need at least 4 or 5 Scouts and 1 or 2 Adults to attend the Pack 286 Pinewood Derby from 9AM to about 1PM on Saturday, January 11th. These Scouts will help sell pinewood derby stands and also run some games to keep the cubs busy while they're not racing. FULL SCOUT (CLASS A) UNIFORM IS EXPECTED.

- **OA SERVICE DAY / OA BANQUET – January 11 & 12**

Saturday, January 11th is an OA and Council service day at Camp Holaka. C'mon out & help keep up the camp (9AM – 3PM, pizza lunch & patch provided to OA members). Reminder – the annual OA Banquet is Sunday, January 12 beginning at 5PM at GiGi's House of Catering on Corunna Road just east of Corunna. Cost is \$10 for a great meal and fellowship.

- **Order of the Arrow (OA) Troop Elections – January 27**

The Order of the Arrow is the **National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America**. Eligible Scouts are elected as *candidates* for membership by their fellow troop scouts (often a majority of whom are NOT members of the OA). A scout is eligible to be elected if he meets all three of the following: (1) attained at least 1st Class Rank; (2) has completed at least 15 nights of BSA camping in the past two years, including one (*and only one*) long term camp of at least 5 nights (summer camp); and (3) they receive the endorsement of the Scoutmaster. There is no minimum age for a scout who meets these three criteria. Scouts (and Scouters) must be under age 21 at the time of election. Elected candidates must complete the Ordeal experience over one of these two 2003 weekend conclaves to become members: Spring at Camp Tapico, May 16, 17, 18 or Fall at Camp Holaka, September 19, 20, 21. Candidates pay \$30 to attend their first conclave which includes Lodge dues through the end of the year, arrow sash, pocket flap, handbook, and meals. Transportation is almost always available from one of the troop adults attending.

The full, official name of the OA is the "*Brotherhood of Cheerful Service*" and membership in this Brotherhood opens up a vast panorama of *additional* Scouting, camping and especially *leadership* opportunities and experiences available to boys from no other source. But like anything else, what you get out of it depends upon what you put into it. Troop 219 has always been an active sponsor of OA events, and has provided many active youth members in the Lodge, including two of the past four Lodge Chiefs, and multiple leaders at both the Lodge and Chapter (corresponding to Council and District) levels. In Tall Pine Council, the OA Lodge Chief sits on the Council Executive Board as the sole representative of all [Boy & Cub] Scouts. Having personally seen the OA make a significant positive difference to both the scouting experience and the personal development of several Scouts, I am especially interested in having this tradition continue.

The following Troop 219 Scouts and Scouters are *members of the OA*: Chris Brown, Nick Burden, John Cohoon, Steve Congdon, Ben Cox, Chris Miller, Bill Sarosy, Anthony Vig, JT Waters; John Cox, Anthony Green, Nick Olds, Ken Witzgall, Dan Zimble; Mr. Dennis Cox, Mr. Wayne Green, Mr. Mike Hussar, Mr. Keith Hussar, Mr. Larry Miller, Mr. Kevin Petrella, Dr. John Waters, Mrs. Lenore Whitmer, Mr. Jay Whitmer, Mr. Mike Witzgall and Mr. Larry Zimble. JT Waters and John Cohoon currently hold the troop position of OA Troop Representative, but any of these Arrowmen may be able to answer your questions.

At this point troop records show the following Scouts meet ALL THREE eligibility requirements for membership: **Chad Brandon, Eli Davis, Ken Foley, Mike Holcomb, Kevin Humphreys, Mark Humphreys, Nick Stewart, Devon Vaughn, Zach Wisniewski**. At the election any one, several, or *every* eligible Scout(s) *could* be elected into membership candidacy based on how the boys in the troop vote.

If you believe that you should have been on either of these lists but were omitted, see me right away so that we can correct the records or adjust your expectations. Our troop may also recommend one adult for membership. Adult eligibility is different from youth eligibility and the adult requirements were outlined extensively in the December Counciline (mailed to all registered scouting families by the Tall Pine Council).

- **Silver Bars JLTC -- Junior Leader Training Conference**

A weeklong formal Junior Leader Training is offered annually by Tall Pine Council, called Silver Bars JLTC. The Silver Bars JLTC course curriculum is an outstanding, one-of-a-kind opportunity to really learn and practice leadership skills in a way unsurpassed at achieving its goals. Both Mr. Hussar and Mr. Zimble can provide detailed answers to any questions you may have. The website www.silverbars.org has information about the course and forms.

The next Silver Bars course will run from June 23 – 29, 2003 at **CAMP HOLAKA** in Lapeer, at a cost of \$175 (\$145 if paid by March 31). I passed out applications to eligible Scouts several weeks ago.

If you're interested, its time to signup NOW!!!

- **Trail to Eagle Camp**

The last Trail to Eagle staff email I received indicated that the 2003 camp is just about full. If you have not yet submitted your application and you want to attend I'd suggest that you submit it **IMMEDIATELY!!!**

- **Mackinac Island Scout Service Troop (MISST) – Governor's Honor Guard**

This is truly a one of a kind opportunity for Scouts. Nowhere in Scouting is a boy immersed in history, discipline, public service, citizenship, leadership, and fun like this activity. It appears that this year the opportunity will run the week of **May 26 through May 31, 2003** (week of Memorial Day). Scouts who attend will miss several days of school, but the learning experience of this event puts those missed days of school to shame. Most school administrations are aware of this project and have no problem excusing Scouts to attend.

In formation and with appropriate ceremony, Scouts involved with the MISST raise flags in the morning and lower them in the evening at various locations throughout Fort Mackinac and nearby park buildings. Scouts also act as guides at locations throughout the Fort and nearby historic park buildings; mainly distributing information and answering questions from the public; as well as assisting State Park personnel as required.

From our troop in recent years, Mr. Hussar and I have each staffed this event, my son Dan attended for two years and Nick Stewart attended last year and (I believe) he intends to attend again. I hope to staff this year again.

To be eligible to attend, Scouts must be: 13 years old by May 28, 2003 and be at least First Class rank by February 28, 2003. Cost to attend is \$180.00 including all meals, transportation (Flint to Mackinac Island and return), lodging, recognition items, bicycle pass, and a footlocker. Lodging is provided in the Scout Barracks just behind the Fort – a building with a rich history of this unique program dating back to the 1930's when the program was limited to Eagle rank Scouts. Eagle Scout Gerald Ford was part of the very first scout troop to perform in this program. The MISST brings a dedicated cook and assistant, and Scouts perform many kitchen duties and also have time off to bicycle, hike, play and visit the town (some restrictions apply)

An application is reproduced on the reverse. There's a general informational meeting scheduled for **7:00PM on Wednesday, January 15th at the Tall Pine Council office**. Scouts who plan to attend must be absolutely serious about accepting the responsibilities that come from participation, including attendance at each of the required preparation meetings as well as rigid uniform and behavior requirements. I have additional printed material for Scouts who are interested in attending (ask me for it); Mr. Hussar, Nick Stewart and I can answer most questions. Practice and developmental meetings begin February 19th so there's no time to waste. Sign up now!

- **OA Chapter Meetings and Adult Roundtable**

REMINDER -- The next meeting of the Bidaban Chapter of the OA is Thursday January 9, 2002 at the Grand Blanc Middle School. Bidaban Chapter meetings are for OA members only, and all T-219 arrowmen should plan to attend. This is the same date, place and time as the adult Roundtable meeting so several T-219 adult leaders are usually going (at least Mr. Zimble and Mr. Hussar and often Mr. Cox, Mr. Witzgall, Dr. Waters and sometimes others too.) – they are usually more than willing to provide you with transportation there and back! – *if* you ask in advance.

- **Troop Committee Meeting**

The next troop committee meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2002 at 7:00PM at the church. We strongly urge the parents of ALL SCOUTS in the troop to attend these meetings. The ongoing success of Troop 219 demands the dedicated involvement of **many** adults – especially YOU!

Larry Zimble
Scoutmaster-Boy Scout Troop 219