

# TROOP 575 NEWSLETTER

Scout Resource Center: [www.troop575.org](http://www.troop575.org)  
July - August, 2006



2006 Volume 12, Issue 7-8

Boy Scout Troop 575, Louisville, Colorado



## Chisholm Trail

Scout Hunter S.



We left from the Sam's Club/Kohl's parking lot in absolute despair because we had been told to bring DVDs and as it turned out the bus only had a VHS player so we thought it would be a very dull and boring ride to Texas. Luckily, though, a few subtle superheroes raced home and saved the day with some mediocre VHS tapes (which actually turned out to be pretty good) so the ride actually proved not bad. When we got to the camp (known commonly as SR2 which stood for Sid Richardson scout ranch)

we were all pretty amazed at how hot it was, and immediately we set up camp and just chilled (not literally) until orientation.

The rest of the week was so action packed if I wrote about everything in this article there would be scarcely enough room for praise for my article (just kidding). But I will tell you some of the brief highlights of the week. A universal favorite was the blob, a large plastic air-filled sack underneath a fifteen-foot tower. The idea was with one person sitting at the far end another person would jump off the tower onto the blob and blast the other people off. Ryan D. and Jason R. were champions and Jonathan N. was also decent. Another favorite was water skiing and tubing, which are some of the most fun things I have ever done. Covert operations totally blindsided powa hawse and we spent few hours being covert for absolutely nothing. That night, we neglected to put up rain flies and that was the night that the entire world water supply came forcefully down on our campsite. Needless to say I now know tents make fantastic swimming pools.



Well friends, our trip was so event-full I cannot possibly write it all here but those were the things that stood out most for me during the week. Adios!

### Upcoming Events:

- ◇ Rocky Mountain National Park Campout  
22-24 September
- ◇ Swim Night  
26 September
- ◇ Rendezvous at BDSR  
13-15 October
- ◇ Merit Badge University  
28 October
- ◇ SHM Leaf Rake  
4 November



## Regular Features

### Ask the SPL!

*Paul G., Senior Patrol Leader*

This is my last newsletter as SPL. Thanks to Chris L. and Brian R. for serving as ASPLs. Also thanks to the patrol leaders for leading their patrols each meeting and on campouts. All of you did a great job and there were some really good skills and games that you taught.



Kyle B. and I staffed this summer at NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) at Camp Tahosa. Kyle and I both attended this training as participants last year. The training is a really good experience and I got a lot out of it. The nice thing about staffing a week is that you refresh everything that you know and learn new things too. I would encourage all scouts who have not yet attended to try and go next summer. Congratulations to Paul B. and Hunter S. who attended this summer.

I hope that everyone had a great time at Peaceful Valley, Chisholm Trail, Green River and all of the other backpacking trips this summer.



### Scoutmaster's Corner

Greetings Scouts and Scouters.

I hope that everyone has had a great and productive summer. There have been lots of events scheduled within the troop over the summer. It sounds as though all the summer camps that people attended were successful and fun. I know that I have very good reviews on the Chisholm Trail camp.



One common theme has returned back to me from each of the camps. That theme is "Lack of Respect" for your leaders. At each of the summer camps there has been a problem with scouts not respecting the directions of their leaders. Comments such as "make me" or "you can't make me" or "do it yourself" have all been heard repeatedly. I know that at Chisholm Trail we had to have one of "those" talks.

Every part of Scouting is "RESPECT". You should not have to be asked twice to do something. Every scout will have to serve a leader at some point in time in their scouting trail. Is that what "YOU" want to have to deal with? During Scoutmaster Conferences I repeatedly hear



from scouts that they wish everyone would work together more.

All scouts have read and signed Troop By-Laws. Everyone knows what proper respect is. Troop meetings and events should be fun. Leaders should not have to continually yell and beg you to participate. If you are an older scout and the event is boring then you need to help out instead of just wandering off. If you do not like the event then maybe you should make a new suggestion or better yet participate to make it a better event. Younger scouts need to listen to their leaders and leave the horseplay for a little while. We can all have fun and

## **Scout of The Month**

*Scout Brock A.*

Brock A. is a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout in Troop 575. He came to the troop a few years ago from Pack 80 in Louisville. He attends Louisville Middle School, and is entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. His favorite subjects in school so far have been Social Studies and Physical Education, because he has had such wonderful teachers in those subjects. His hobbies include reading and playing any kind of sport. His favorite books are "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and the "Harry Potter" series.

Brock has been on several campouts with the troop, including 2 summers at Peaceful Valley, Rendezvous, the Shooting Campout and the Micro-Backpack trip. He really enjoyed the Micro-Backpack trip because he enjoys hiking. The group was also able to have an open fire on this campout and they cooked fish, hotdogs and marshmallows.

Brock has also worked on several merit badges, his favorite so far being Railroading. This was an enjoyable topic because he learned about different types of trains as well as all the rules of railroading.

Brock's favorite point of the Scout Law is "Trustworthy". Being Trustworthy means taking responsibility for one's conduct and obligations. It means actually doing what you say you are going to do.

When asked why he enjoys Troop 575, Brock responded that he likes the fact that 575 is run by the scouts and because the troop "does a lot of fun stuff!"

Congratulations, Brock, on being Scout of the Month for the July/August newsletter!



## **Historian's Chronicle**

*Scout Spencer C., Historian*

Troop 575 has been doing a lot of campouts in June and July. June's theme was biking, so there was a mountain biking campout during the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Older scouts had the opportunity to participate in the Chisholm Trail High Adventure camp from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. Also, Tucker Jensen had his Eagle court of honor on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations Tucker, on a job well done.

July's theme was physical fitness. I personally think my physical fitness was tested at Peaceful Valley (all that walking sure can make one tired!). Anyway, numerous scouts spent the week at Peaceful Valley in the week of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Also, from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, we had a mini-backpack trip for 2<sup>nd</sup> year scouts. Finally, on the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was a canoe trip for older scouts.



make the events better if we do not spend half the time trying to get people to listen and cooperate.

Remember that this is your troop. You are a leader. Don't be the problem! We want to have fun, learn and most importantly RESPECT others. The best example of this is the Golden Rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." If you want to yell at people as a leader and have your friends tell you "Make Me" then maybe scouting isn't for you.

Good luck in the new school year. Mr. Brown



## **Librarian's Article**

### *Scout Brock A., Librarian*

The library is in need of more merit badge books. You can get over 80% of what you paid for a merit badge book back, that \$1.75 goes into your scout account. All you have to do is buy a merit badge book for a merit badge you're working on. Or if you have one already and it's up to date, once you are finished, you turn it in to me/ Mr. Brown and tell one of us it is up to date and we'll do the rest to make sure you get your money in your scout account. So, basically a merit badge book will cost you \$0.25. It is also good because the library needs a lot more books.



## Meet the Assistant Scoutmaster

*Sam Benz, Assistant Scoutmaster*

**Q:** When did you join Troop 575?

**A:** February 2003 when my son Paul crossed over from Webelos.

**Q:** What have you done with the troop?

**A:** I've attended many campouts and started the Troop 575 Adventure Program (micro, mini backpacks and canoe trips).

**Q:** What are you focusing on now?

**A:** I have been coordinating the new scout program, since my son Marty just crossed over from Webelos this year.

**Q:** What are some of your favorite activities?

**A:** My favorite trips have been the adventure program trips, where the younger scouts lead themselves on outdoor adventures (not car campouts) and learn about being independent in the outdoors. I especially enjoy getting to know parents and leaders on these campouts.

**Q:** Any words of advice for new scout parents?

**A:** I would advise new scout parents to keep encouraging their boys to work on rank advancement through 1<sup>st</sup> Class. These skills are the fundamentals of the scout program and the most important. Also, I would recommend attending many of the troop events with your boys. Your presence gives them support and you have a lot of fun too!



## Scout Articles

### Mountain Biking Campout

*Scout Griffith L.*



Members of Troop 575 combined two great outdoor activities, camping and mountain biking, the weekend of June 9 – 11. Our small but enthusiastic group departed for Camp Tahosa Friday evening. When we arrived, we got out and stretched our legs and got back into the car to follow the ranger to the site. 5 minutes later we found our site was a cabin with an indoor stove, a table and 12 bunks.

We ate and played cards while the adults talked outside for the rest of the evening.

After a good night's sleep, we woke up, got dressed and had a delicious breakfast from the Dutch-oven (inflated pancakes). In an hour we were getting ready for biking. Once we left we were on a search for a trail called "Sugarloaf" but instead we were walking up hills on a rocky road for an estimate of 2.5 miles. It took us 2 hours to get up and 30 minutes to get down. After the strenuous ride, the boys vigorously ate lunch. After lunch we worked on first class requirements and then played football until dinner was ready. When we were finished eating the hearty pizza, we ate S'mores then 'played' thorns and roses until time for bed and lights out.



Luckily, the weather cooperated, and there was no thunder or lightning to ruin the trip. It was sunny with a few welcome clouds as the temperature was really warm. The picture above shows the group of cyclists by a lake along the trail.

When Sunday morning came, we packed up and then took a short kayak trip that included seeing a moose! We beached the kayaks and then hit the road, already looking forward to the next Troop 575 Campout!

## Green River Canoe Trip

*Scout Eric N.*

On the first day we got up early and drove to Moab Utah. We sat through the 6 hour drive with all six of us crammed in Mr. Eastman's truck. We got to Moab and camped at Arches National Park. We hiked and explored the arches in the park that evening. The next day we drove into Moab and met our shuttle service and canoe rental, Tex's Riverways company. We got our canoes and they drove us around the northwest side of Canyonlands National Park to the Green River. We drove down a steep road that switched back and forth down the side of a cliff. They dropped us off at a place on the river called Mineral Bottom. We cast off leaving civilization behind.

The second day we paddled about 17 miles before we stopped at a grassy clearing on the shore to camp for the night. This was a mistake. There was an unbelievable amount of mosquitoes and other bugs. We left in the morning, very bug bitten and tired. We canoed another 17 or 18 miles and stopped at a place that we thought would be campable. It turned out to be a great spot. We spent the afternoon swimming and cooling off. It was over 105 degrees out in the sun, but the river was nice and cool. Later that night 4 of us hiked up out of the canyon to see some petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are pictures carved in the rock by ancient Indians. They were pretty cool.

The next day we set our sights for a short easy day because we were ahead of schedule. We paddled in the shade of the canyon walls whenever possible. We stopped at a known campsite and decided that we would go for a swim. We all just floated down the river for about a half mile and then hiked back. Later Mr. Parlier, my dad, and I hiked up a side canyon to look for an arch but we never found it. We hiked back and slept for the night in a very nice spot.

Friday we paddled to the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers where they join together. We continued a couple of miles down the Colorado River and camped at a place called Spanish Bottom. We hung out swimming, hiking around, and doing Scout stuff. We swamped our canoes to wash all the mud out.

Saturday morning we slept late and packed up our gear. We got picked up by a "jet boat" that took us 70 miles back up the Colorado River to Moab. We went to Wendy's for burgers and cold drinks. Everyone agreed that the thing they wanted most when they got back was an ice cold drink of water!

It was really hot, about 105 degrees during the day. We stayed in the shade whenever we could. In the evening it was pretty comfortable. You didn't need a sleeping bag. Except for the first night on the river, we didn't have any bugs. The Green River is actually muddy brown. It has a sandy bottom and is good swimming. There is a mild current though, so you have to be a good swimmer. We paddled 52 miles.





## Micro-Backpacking Trip in Rocky Mountain National Park

*Scout Steven F.*

This August we new Tenderfoots Marty B., Adam D., Steven F., and Garrett E. walked up a trail that was 6 miles up a mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park. We had 30-pound backpacks each. It was very hard but we did it! We stopped by many sites. There were some lakes and waterfalls. Once we got to our destination, we were very organized. We set up tents and started dinner. We made sure we followed all the cooking rules like no playing with fire, etc. We had a 3-man tent for the scouts but we fit into it. The 4 adults who went with us had to share 2 tents.

The next day we fished in a stream and caught a lot of fish, but we had to throw a lot of them back. We fished all day long. We ate none of the fish.

The next day a lot of us were lazy and slept in but some of us were up pretty early. Once everyone was up and running, we left as soon as possible. We went past everything we saw before.

Each of us took a turn at being SPLs and ASPLs for that weekend. We were very organized. The adults were very pleased that we not only kept the camp clean, but managed to pick up trash left by others!



## Order of the Arrow

*Scout Kyle B.*

Upcoming in the Order of the Arrow is Fall Fellowship at Camp Laramie Peak on the weekend of September 15-17, 2006. The Wahpeton Prep will be on September 30. Rendezvous is the weekend of October 13-15, 2006. You will be able to staff at this event if you are in OA. Calvin Hicks is the new OA representative for our troop. You can contact him if you have any questions.

*Scout Ryan D.*

A group of scouts in our troop was recently elected into Order of the Arrow. Several of us went on a weekend campout at Ben Delatour Scout Ranch for our Ordeal over the weekend of June 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. BDSR is up in the mountains above Fort Collins. It was a lot of fun meeting new people and enjoying the weekend. The people in our troop that went were Paul G, Brian R, Hunter S, and myself.



Two more scouts, Jack E. and Michael A. went on their Ordeal campout up at Camp Laramie Peak (Wyoming) in August. Congratulations to all scouts who completed their Ordeals this summer!

Our district is Whapaton, which is one of 5



districts. If you get the chance you should try to become a member of Order of the Arrow. Order of the Arrow is the honor society of Scouting. It is also very nature related, so if you like to camp you should join us. You do service projects to better improve the communities and Scouts. I am already looking forward to the projects that lie ahead!

## Troop Business

### Merit Badges Required for Eagle

*Karen Evans*

Several parents have asked for a list of Eagle-Required Merit Badges. A boy must complete a total of 21 merit badges for the Eagle Rank (in addition to other requirements). Twelve of these badges are **REQUIRED**, the other nine can be badges that the boy selects. All badges are listed in the Boy Scout Book in the Merit Badge Chapter. The following are Eagle **REQUIRED**:

Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, Family Life, First Aid, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, (Emergency Preparedness **OR** Lifesaving), (Cycling **OR** Hiking **OR** Swimming).

Please note that the last two have some choices. For example, a boy can complete Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving to satisfy the Eagle requirement. Of course, a boy may choose to complete both of these badges. In this case, one would count towards the Eagle-Required badges, the other would count towards the total of twenty-one.

The boys have chosen to work on Personal Fitness and Personal Management in the coming year. These classes will be taught by our own troop counselors. Watch for more details about these classes in the future!

### Rank Advancement

The following scouts have earned rank advancements since the last newsletter:

Tenderfoot: Marty B., Garrett E.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class: Marty B., Lance B., Garrett E.

1<sup>st</sup> Class: Ben H., Trevor O.

Star: Trevor M., Eric N., Andrew P., Ryan R.

Life: Andy G., Warren M., Caleb O.

*Congratulations to Tucker J., whose Eagle Court of Honor was held June 10.*



### Troop Calendar

Go to <http://www.troop575.org/Pages/CalPage.htm> for the calendar.

