

TROOP 173 NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

The **KLONDIKE DERBY** is this Saturday, February 4 at Camp Sacajawea in Sparta. Campers should be at Dunkin Donuts Rt. 10 & 202 for a 7:30 PM departure on Friday night. Be absolutely sure to have your cold weather gear with you for the Klondike. Scouts who are coming up on Saturday should plan to arrive by 8 AM. And if you wish to help Eileen Galley out in the (heated) kitchen, be sure to let her know 973 334 3631.

ACTIVITY UPDATE: March 9-11 **Camp Bullowa** cabin in the Hudson Valley. There is an opportunity to hike in the Mohonk Mountain Preserve (mohonkpreserve.org). We will definitely need several adults to drive, camp and hike with us. Look for a separate flier. **SAVE THE DATE:** Our **BIG TRIP** May 25-28 –Lake George NY area visit. We've booked accommodations – should be a great destination!

Congratulations to: Ken Galley, who has been recognized with the **Fishawack Finest** award for his service to Troop 173: as an active member of our Troop leadership for over 10 years, with two terms as Scoutmaster. As you know Ken continues to serve as Assistant Scoutmaster and he makes sure our trailer is kept road-ready. The Galley family is also one of only two families in Troop 173's history to field three Eagle Scouts!

FUND RAISING UPDATE: Thanks to exceptional sales effort by our Scouting families, we are presenting **\$428** in Activity Credits to those who contributed the most *combined* income to our **Fall Fund Raisers**. Our top sellers were: **Michael Gaudio, Danny Kinskey-Lebeda, and Noah Munn**. Thanks to all the parents who purchased the products or were sales assistants! Credits will be mailed to the families.

While April is designated as *Youth Protection Month*, we have decided to restructure our meeting schedule: On **February 24**, we will show the BSA instructional video, "**A Time to Tell**". This will be screened at the end of the meeting, and parents are encouraged to either stay for the entire meeting or to arrive by 8:00 PM to view it with their sons. You can preview the video at this link:: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2384336835066759177>. Parents may also wish to review at home the *Parents Guide to Preventing Child Abuse* booklet in the **Handbook**, which was a requirement for joining the B.S.A. (also online at www.scouting.org/filestore/ypt/pdf/100-015.pdf)

Many folks are already planning out their summers, so the **Summer Camp** info is now available at ppbsa.org NOW. We will invite a guest to speak to us this spring about Summer Camp opportunities:

- Troop 173 will be spending July 15-21 at **Winnebago Scout Reservation** in Rockaway.
- **Nat'l Youth Leadership Training** is available June 24-30 or August 5-11 at Winnebago. **NYLT** requires the Scoutmaster's OK and is for boys over 13 years of age. **NYLT** is recommended prior to attending Trail to Eagle camp, and is normally reimbursed by the troop at 50% of the cost.
- **Trail to Eagle** is ideal for Life Scouts or those *almost* Life Scout and will be held each of the weeks of July at Winnebago Scout Reservation.

CAMPERSHIPS FOR ALL CAMP PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE AND YOU SHOULD INQUIRE NOW IF COST IS AN ISSUE FOR ATTENDING SUMMER CAMP OR NYLT. Find more information about that on the council Summer Camp webpage <http://www.camps.ppbsa.org/camping/Summer%20Camp.htm>

SPECIAL DATE REMINDER:

February 10 Troop Meeting

February 17 Troop Meeting

February 24 Troop Meeting/ **A Time to Tell** screening

TROOP 173 WEBSITE: troop173nj.com

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