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about 2000 pounds of food for Interfaith Caring Ministries, done a bike hike, canoed and swam in a logging lake, had about 20 hours of Service Project time available at the Troop level, and gone "Wacky" on an occasional Tuesday. The Troop was awarded the Quality Unit Award.

Oh yeah, the Scouts also sold \$12,500 worth of popcorn...

The Troop purchased a trailer and outfitted the interior. We received a great compliment at Cockrell River when a leader from another unit came up and asked "just how many engineers" we had in this Troop. A new design for a chuck box was developed, six new boxes were built to hold patrol cooking gear, and our older boxes were donated to a new Troop in Deer Park to help them get their feet on the ground. We bought a canoe and hope to buy more. We have a trailer that we can use with the canoes and have about 1000# of pioneering timbers on it currently.

This is where we have been...here's where we are going...

We're expecting to be very close to our maximum Troop size this year. One Scout transferred in recently and we have five other Webelos Scouts committed with 17 open spots. We already have at least one new ASM committed who will be taking training in the spring. This will allow us to have an ASM who is committed to working the "Trail to Eagle" for Scouts First Class and above.

New Troop Committee members will be taking the Committee Challenge this year before summer and we will conduct Youth Protection Training for all incoming parents.

Our first Order of the Arrow election will be held in February and at the same time the next PLC elections will be held. We're looking into a more frequent PLC leadership forum for our youth leaders where we use modern media examples for leadership roles. A leadership program for incoming Scouts is in an idea formation stage. Hopefully we will be able to send 1-2 Scouts to a week long Junior Leader's Training Course in 2004.

Orienteering, Cooking Merit Badge, Shooting Sports, and a week long ski trip are planned this spring and summer. We're on target for Camp Strake in June and Buffalo Trails in July. We expect more service project opportunities as the Scouts mature a bit more and we're going to try to get back up to around 30 nights camping per year (weather was a mess this year). Hopefully, the PLC will look at Wilderness Survival as a theme during the year. We just might see our first Eagle Scout. Wacky Tuesday's will almost certainly continue where appropriate and we have a plan for parents to get a taste of Scout cuisine at its finest.

Long range planning is looking at high adventure opportunities in the summer of 2005 with a possible trip to a Sea Base. Information on Philmont is in the mail.

You, the parents, will continue to play a critical role in the Troop in the coming year. In keeping the Troop size down, we need adults from every family to help out at some level. Merit Badge Counselor, Committee Member, Scoutmaster, you name it and we'll need help with it.

In closing, I want to Thank You for trusting me to work with your children. It's one of the greatest feelings in the world.

Have a Happy Holiday Season and may the New Year bring you Peace.