

Troop 957 Committee Minutes – February 15, 2005

Attendees: Dave Wisniewski, Countses, Jody Williford, John MacLain, Lori Johnson, Mike Berno, Lori Jacob, G. Musso, Beiserts, Danny Wright, Missy Adams, Stu Lloyd, Mark Rehak, Dale Taggart, Earl Hughes

The stated purpose of this meeting was to talk the calendar, however some topics were discussed before that began. Stu started off by passing out the FOS forms he had promised during the recent COH. After that Mike stated he was still gathering info for the troop recharter. One scout has left the troop. Another will stay the rest of the school year, although his father can no longer participate as a leader due to going to med school. This last means that the troop will not be able to work on the sailing merit badge, as had been planned during the last PLC schedule lock-in. We have also gained one scout. Also at least one scout, and possibly more, from the recent Webelos Open House may be thinking of joining. It is likely that 3 to 4 others will not join as a result of an inappropriate comment, which has since been dealt with, on the part of one of our scouts. Dave then weighed in with the poor showing for the troop at Scout Sunday (4 scouts and 3 adults).

Chris began the schedule discussion with his cheat sheet (see below). He noted that the PLC was still short by 6 to 8 hours on the overall planning. Campout food will now be handled at the patrol level. Routine monthly campout commitments will be \$7, instead of \$15. This will cover the site fees and other incidentals. Each patrol will be responsible for collecting the remaining money to cover food preparation. Historically this has been set at \$8, however the boys will determine the correct amount based on what type of food they choose to prepare. Several parents voiced concern that this approach might result in the patrol grubmaster having to spend a large amount of time acting as a debt collector. Others responded that this would be a way of introducing the real world into the process.

Chris stated that the loss of the 3 campouts this year due to weather really hurt the boys in terms of the impact to the amount of rank advancements they have achieved. Collectively they are about 20 behind. The 2005 calendar currently has only 7 routine monthly campout opportunities due to the request that March, August and December remain campout free (rationale being spring break/Easter, back to school and Christmas respectively). In order to provide some advancement opportunity for those interested in it, there will be a special advancement camp in late July (around the time of National Jamboree) as well as the late November canoe trip over Thanksgiving. Also the highly popular shooting sports Memorial Day campout from last year will be offered again this year. During this portion, Chris also reminded the parents that he really needed to know what classes the boys wanted to take at Rainey Mountain summer camp. The decision must be made prior to the midnight March 1st signup. The parents meeting for this summer camp will be June 14th.

The choice of Ruidoso for the March 2006 ski trip was talked at some length. The rationale was the relatively low cost (\$500 range), compared with other ski areas, plus the huge amount of fun the boys had during the last trip. This led to an extensive discussion of the boys' decision to open attendance for this only to those boys who paid with sweat equity where equal effort, not equal result was the criteria (hours spent, not dollars sold). This follows the scouting principle of "live and die as a troop", but it can only work if the committee provides sufficient fundraising opportunities, as this is an extremely challenging goal. As an example it would take \$1500 of popcorn sales (about 15 hours) or scout fair ticket sales (about 150 tickets) to meet it. Immediate action both to identify and to schedule these fundraising opportunities, as well as ensure the rules of the road to make use of them are fair for each boy, is critical.

Several of the parents worried about the time commitment this would take, as well as possible conflicts with school and sports. Others extended the discussion to all troop activities as a whole. More and more is being added to the calendar. The scoutmasters as a whole acknowledged this and stated that it was a natural outgrowth of the aging of the troop. Next year we will have scouts in high school for the first time in the history of the troop. In order to keep up their interest we must provide opportunities such as the high adventure program. Similarly we need to maintain a program for the entering Webelos who are just finishing elementary school. The natural result will be that there may be multiple activities scheduled for almost every weekend—monthly campouts, bi-weekly bike rides, high adventure and/or new scout training events etc. It is not expected that each scout (or each leader) will want to or be able to attend every single event. That is also the reason that some events are scheduled for school and work holidays. The troop leaders, like all working adults, have only so much paid leave time. Scheduling some events on holidays allows them to support troop events without having to take a cut in pay to do it.

Fundraising for the ski trip brought up fundraising for the troop as a whole. As discussed previously, the troop will handle popcorn differently in 2005. The boys will all sell for 6 hours as a troop event the first Saturday of sales. All money from this will go to the troop. After that if they want to continue to sell, then half their earnings will go into their passbook accounts as in previous years. Currently the troop has \$2340.89 in the account, of which \$1870.66 belongs to the families. This high percentage will decrease as I take summer camp payments from those boys' accounts that have >\$100 positive balance from popcorn or unused campout payments. Troop indebtedness is at \$1000 for the trailer and another \$311.18 in misc. expenses turned into me since the last committee meeting. The boys owe \$231 in back dues.

The next parents' meeting will be March 1st.

Barbara

Troop 957 Treasurer and Secretary

