

Troop Committee Minutes – January 9, 2007
Meeting Opened – 7:08 pm

Attendees: Barbara & Chris Counts, Doug & Jody Williford, Susan & Danny Wright, Mike Berno, Diane Brady, Steve Beisert, Max Musso, David Lopez, Jane & Warren Hall, Bill McNicoll, Laura MacLean, Rick Ferguson, and Dave Wisniewski.

Dave's agenda included the following topics...

1. **Recruiting and Size of Troop** – Dave handed out an email dated 1/3/7 regarding the Troop Membership Policy. Recapping, the Troop will be made up of four (4) patrols (one being for High Adventure [HA]). Total membership of the Troop, excluding HA is three (3) patrols of 8-10 boys, for a maximum of 30 boys. The HA group has no size restriction. Eligibility for joining the Troop in a given year is dependent on the number of boys currently registered AND actively participating Troop 957 as of the first of December of a given year. A quorum vote passed unanimously.
2. **Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader** [Doug]
 - a. Major changes to composition of regular meetings will emphasize “active” Merit Badge work to enable meeting to be more stimulating for the scouts – “bookwork” sections should be concentrated on at home or places other than regular Troop meetings. As always, MB Counselors, Leaders and Liaisons are available for questions and MB completion status.
 - b. Auto Mechanics MB – Doug has contacted a local guy who is experienced with youth education and is willing to help with the completion of this MB.
 - c. Team Building – James will be working on Troop team building to promote a closer tie between older and younger scouts. Chase Payne has been tagged as he “Gamesmaster” in the latest team building effort.
 - d. Older Scout Representative – We are looking for an older scout to replace Fletcher's role in providing a First Class Emphasis (FCE) liaison for incoming younger scouts and for new recruits.
 - e. Discussion of Merit Badges: partials by the boys, the Blue Cards and tracking by Troopmaster (software).
3. **Treasurer Report** – Susan presented the latest financial report. Recapping, we are approx. \$5,700 in the black, recognizing that the Scout's individual reserves are not included. Scout dues receivable are \$425.50, and recent proceeds from the fall garage sale and greenery sale are \$1926.15 and \$277.23 respectively. (see attached summary)
4. **Special Spontaneous Award!** – Kudos to Barbara Counts for her many hours of work and service to Troop 957 (Too many hats to mention here) since its inception. Barbara was presented with the completed plaque for “Troop Committee” honors – Congrats Barbara!
5. **Summer Camp** – Jody reported that summer camp commitments are in, resulting in an opening of 12 slots for Camp Ben Delatour in Colorado. 1st Years will be attending El Rancho Cima with further details TBA.

6. **SeaBase SCUBA Trip** (August 2007) – Wow, what an opportunity for our scouts! Seven (7) days of adventurous SCUBA diving in FL. The Jan 15th lottery yielded two crews available and snapped up by Jody for our Troop. There are rigorous requirements for this trip, in addition to the age limit of 14 (by 8/15/7). More details to follow by emails and troop meetings.
7. **Troop Growth Needs** – The discussion centered around the need for a new/additional trailer and the related storage needed to house it. Chris presented several scenarios for the logistics of this project (See attached pdf file for details). Danny/Susan Wright will work on the Church's position on trailer/equipment storage, and that will result in the leeway of what the Troop can procure. Several others will look into potential low cost storage options. More to be announced as storage facilities and cost proposals develop. (See attached trailer discussion points).
8. **Fund Raising Proposals** – An abbreviated discussion netted that a spring Garage Sale is not viable, Greenery Sales will re-evaluated for next year, and Flags Across Brazos and Air Filter Sales require more investigation. More to follow on fundraising; especially in light that we may have fundraising needs for trailer and other projects.
9. **Calendar Overview** – Our very dynamic Current calendar can be viewed online at <http://www.troop957.com/calendar/plans.cgi> - Highlights of the calendar include:
 - a. **Jan. 23rd** – BoR
 - b. **Feb 4th (10:15 A.M.)** – CLCC Scout Sunday – All scouts are encouraged to participate in this annual event (Dress code is strict Class A). Scouts distribute bulletins at the beginning of the service and it is a very good way to support and give thanks to the CLCC for our home base of operations. Regardless of your personal spiritual orientation, our scouts have left this service with a warm feeling of fellowship.
 - c. **Feb 6th** – Troop Elections – Leadership positions, Leadership positions, Leadership positions – Need I say more?!? It is important for all scouts to attend whether they are being nominated, nominating or making their vote count. Great government skills to be experienced here guys, don't miss out.
 - d. **Feb 12th** – Nassau Bay Flag Ceremony
 - e. **Feb 13th** – Open House – Same as Bowling Night – Plan to have new recruits attend – Let's show them an energetic Troop 957 Welsome! [NOTE: A new requirement as of 1/1/7 – Scouts working on 1st Class Rank – ***MUST*** introduce themselves and try to interact with new recruits to Troop. If 1st Class Rank not earned by 1/1/7, you must complete this requirement.
 - f. **Mar 19th** – Bridging for new scouts from Brookwood Pack 957
 - g. **Spring Break** – Planning for a 2-3 day HA canoeing trip is in the works, more to follow.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.
Respectfully,

Jane Hall
Troop 957 Secretary

Financial Statement

As of January 9, 2007

Assets

Account Type

Checking

Account

100 Sterling Bank Checking

Total Assets

Liabilities

Account Type

Liabilites

Reserves

Passbook Holders

Account

780 July Summer Camp

Family Passbook Balance Less Reserve

Total Liabilities

Net Worth

Notes:

Scout dues owed to troop

Garage Sales Proceeds

Greenery Sales Proceeds

Trailer Discussion (1/9/2007)

Issue: Troop has outgrown current trailer's ability to haul equipment in support of troop activities.

Current Status: Troop owns three trailers.

6x10 2990# GVWR Cargo Trailer (housed at church)

4x6 2000# GVWR Cargo Trailer (donated by Pack 957, current location ??)

12ft 1000# GVWR Boat Trailer (on Chris' patio, used previously to haul pioneering timbers)

The 6x10 has been the primary troop trailer and has a 2000# carrying capacity. With just the basic troop gear (chuck boxes, food boxes, water coolers, ice chests, propane, stoves, tents, and shelving) we are already at the 2000# limits for the trailer. When we add personal gear we are overloading the trailer. We're assuming that a Scout ready for summer camp will have about 50# of gear with him.

Summer camps we offload several grub boxes and don't carry some other gear so can carry personal equipment. On campouts, we need to stop carrying personal gear so we do not overload the trailer. The blown tires we have had are a safety hazard and we need to take action so this does not continue.

Options

1. Do nothing – not really an option since trailer tire problem is a safety hazard. Will require that personal gear be transported by POV which will lead to more parents needing to provide transportation to campouts and summer camp.
COST - \$0
2. Borrow church youth group trailer (assumes that they agree to use)
PROs – trailer already owned by church and no purchase or add'l storage would be required
CONS – dual use conflicts, 5x8 trailer has about 60% of volume of 6x10. Weight capacity not an issue but volume with troop size may be.
COST - \$0 (but may still require an additional trailer to be rented for summer camp or if youth group has simultaneous activities)
3. Sell existing trailers and purchase single larger trailer
PRO's – no add'l storage required
CON's – need vehicle capable of pulling trailer. Fully loaded single axle trailer is about the largest trailer a ½ ton pickup can tow. Troop needs to not rely on having ¾ ton vehicles available.
COST – not a viable option
4. Purchase new/used 6x10 trailer
PRO's – Troop owns trailer and controls use.
CON's – storage required at church, cost of trailer
COST – new \$2000-2500 / used \$1200-2000
5. Rent "U-Haul" Trailer as needed
PRO's – no storage requirement, can rent whatever size is required
CON's – cost of rental, inconvenience of person towing trailer having to go to rental, etc.
COST - \$60/campout and ~\$240/summer camp (estimate ~ \$960/year)

Obviously there are some "hybrid" options that might be available.

See next page for further discussion points...

Other issues that enter into this discussion...

4x6 ft trailer that was given to the Troop is somewhere and if the Troop plans to use it, needs to be recovered and stored.

Chris would like to get the flatbed trailer off his patio or Troop make a decision to sell trailer.

Troop has 4 kayaks and a canoe it owns. Some form of transport of boats will be needed.

Long Term Trailer Plan

Trailer #1 – Existing 6x10 trailer used for hauling basic Troop owned gear. Leave it as is.

Trailer #2 – Used 6x10 trailer to be used for hauling personal gear. Minimal outfitting for tiedowns.

Trailer #3 – Existing 4x6' trailer. Used for HA trips to haul their gear and as overflow for personal gear for summer camp, etc. Trailer is small and light enough, any car with a hitch will be able to tow it. No changes to trailer except for removal of Pack's side panels.

Trailer #4 – Boat Trailer – used to store 4-6 canoes and 4-6 kayaks.

Storage proposal...

Build a trailer area on the church property (parking lot). Location near the light pole would be preferred since then can get electricity to area. This is nice to have and not required and church would probably prefer to not lose parking spots that close to building. Estimated size of enclosure would be 18x40' and would house all four trailers. Built to meet "deed" restrictions so would have 8' tall pickets. COST - ~\$1400 depending on what we can get donated, etc.

VERY long term idea

Put carport over trailer area to protect trailers from weather. Carport would cover entire trailer storage area. COST - \$5000 plus supplies to install (concrete, etc).

Other ideas that have been tossed out there...

Trailer – get church to sell 5x8 and work with them to buy 6x10 that works for us too. Issue is that the 5x8 actually will carry more weight and depending on church's needs, larger trailer with less carrying capacity may not work plus there is still the issue of simultaneous use.

Tear down interior wall of storage area currently in use for access between two existing halves. This will help ease storage of 4x6 behind church's 5x8. Overall area opened up is not large enough to store more than that.

BOTTOM LINE PROPOSAL

1. Work with church ASAP to build enclosure that will house four trailers – COST - ~\$1400
2. Purchase used 6x10 trailer with a NTE cost of \$2000
3. Find 4x6 trailer and do any required work for it to be used for HA trips – COST - ~\$100
4. Move trailer from Chris' back yard into enclosure once completed OR sell trailer.