

Thursday March 23, 2006

1st Merrickville Group Committee Meeting

In attendance: Stew Hamill, Sheila Cornelisse, Peter Cornelisse, Bob Sargeant, Allan Yates, Mike Jackman, Alex Beelich, and Susanne Pilon

Regrets: Liz Collinson, Simon Eadie, Keith Skelhorne

Meeting commenced at Bob and Laura's house at 7:20 p.m.

Reviewed the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Lea Anne McCarthy will provide minutes of previous meeting to Allan for him to type up.

Colony Report provided by Sheila (Tictac)

For any other groups wishing to join in on the Jamboree on the Trail taking place on May 13 they must register prior to March 31. n.b. This is also the sleepover date at Whispering Pines for the cubs.

Mike asked if any whitetail beavers would want to join the cub sleepover at Whispering Pines on May 13th weekend. The general consensus was to pass on that idea for the time being.

Mike would like to meet with the whitetails to talk to them before they move up to becoming cubs and he and Sheila will arrange a mutually convenient time.

Beaver Attendance:

February 28: 16 March 07: 14 March 14: March Break March 21: 18
Total:48

The following is a Beaver Agenda for March and April provided by Sheila:

March 07	Games Night
March 14	March Break – No Beavers
March 21	World Day of Water
March 28	Inventor Night
April 01	Sleepover at Brockville Museum
April 04	French Canadian Night – Les Voyageurs
April 11	Easter
April 18	Hall unavailable. Collar Hill hike.
April 25	Astronomy Night.

Pack Report provided by Peter Cornelisse (Akela)

Cub Attendance:

March 01: 20 March 08: 24 March 15: March Break March 22: 23
Total: 67

One goal Peter identified was to increase the fun activities which in turn would boost the attendance. One such activity was the slingshot night which Allan and Mike said went very well. Games night also went over very well and we can look forward to magic tricks, and secret codes. An upcoming activity is Archery night at Ron's Archery on April 19th. This year there will be more focus on safety and proper use of the bow. The fee is \$40 per hour and as the group will be there for about an hour and a half the agreed upon fee is set for \$60.

Troop Report provided by Alex Beech

Summary of activities and future planned activities

1. Current level of enrollment has increased by 1
2. Limited use of the hall will be maintained.

March 4/5 at 1117 Kilmarnock Rd.

Linking activity with the senior Cubs

Scouts in attendance 9

Cubs in attendance 6

Scout leaders in attendance 2

Cub leaders in attendance 3

Froot Loops Camp. Activities were well received including:

Find the glow sticks, Fire lighting, gathering wood, cross-country skiing, hiking, building a shelter, outdoor cooking (bring your own menu) and fireworks

A freezie award will be earned by all overnight campers. I am awaiting their arrival from Chris Tyler.

We now have 9 Scouts who have earned their winter scouting badge this year.

This type of linking activity should be continued yearly around the same time of year.

March break did not include a meeting.

Scout trucks were distributed at the last meeting. Each scout paid \$11.00 and the Troop will subsidize for the tax. Last year we had a volume discount. This year this discount does not apply. Each Scout who designs and builds a truck will earn their modeler badge.

Next meeting we will be designing and building the trucks. Our intent is to have our own race day on April 24th. This will act as a tune up for the races on April 29th for those who wish to participate.

In addition, on April 29th, the Scouts will operate a canteen on Saturday. We will not be there on Sunday afternoon.

Also planning a joint session with the Pathfinders/Guides. Our attempt is to cultivate a spirit of working/camping together. Sharing of skills.

Following this, in May we have two camps/outings scheduled.

Scout Attendance:

Feb 20: 8 (building the display, dues not collected) Feb 27: 9

March 6: 4 March 13: March Break March 20: 9

Total: 30

Alex and Ted Hitsman purchased Robert McNaughton's Scout shirt, book, and sash and wanted to know how much they could be reimbursed. Allan said that there would be no problem reimbursing for the total amount of the claim considering the circumstances.

Whispering Pines Badge Contest

Deadline is the end of this month and there is a \$25 cash prize.

Wood Badge 1 Course

For Beavers and Cubs on Friday, April 07 and Saturday, April 08. No fee – lunch included – Smiths Falls. Highly recommended.

Going-up Ceremonies take place on Tuesday, May 16 for the Beavers to Cubs and Wednesday, May 24 for the Cubs to Scouts.

Pitch-In Canada will be on Wednesday, May 03.

Scout Trees....

With May quickly filling up a tentative date has been suggested for the evening of Tuesday, May 09. The general consensus was not to plant on private land and the toboggan hill/sand pit area near Limerick Forest was put to the table. Time and place yet to be determined.

Bingo

Funds raised from January Bingo was \$402 (Sheila/Peter/Simon) \$134 per person
2/3 beavers 1/3 cubs

Funds raised from February Bingo was \$285 (John/Simon/Sheila) \$95 per person
All beaver

Allan said that \$25 would be given to individuals who work the Bingo. This covers a bit for expenses such as gasoline and travel time. Three people will be credited for the bingo event even if only two attended. Payment will be distributed according to the attendance

Financial Report

The current account balance is \$3,245.00. To be deducted:
To the Village of Merrickville for the use of centre: \$271.00
Sheila and Peter Cornelisse for bingo: \$50.00
John Chambers for bingo: \$25.00
Simon Eadie for bingo: \$50.00

Stew mentioned that the Limerick Forest/Rideau Outdoor Centre will be hosting three workshops: March 25th with open discussions on ecological issues, April 22nd on Silva cultural issues and one on May 13th. It was also noted that this coming winter there will be a logging operation in practice at Limerick. This could be beneficial for the beavers, cubs and scouts.

Community Centre Usage

Allan recommends that next year we have a flat rate fee with the kids and the village. Based on numbers so far this year, the breakdown would be approximately \$14 per scout, \$18 per cub and \$18 per beaver.

Alex suggested that another individual take over the task of contacting the village to discuss the terms of the complex rental fees as Allan has assumed this time consuming responsibility and should be given a break. As of the end of the meeting, there had been no other person delegated to the task.

Certification Standards

Patrol Camp/Backpacking Overnight Trip/ Canoe Day Trip/Canoe Overnight Trip

Alex inquired if the minimum certification standards are requirements from Scouts Canada and Allan responded that he has e-mailed Scouts Canada for the requirement policies pertaining to the above noted excursions.

The general consensus of the leaders at the meeting was that the certifications were a very good idea providing they didn't take up too much time – refresher courses were a

great idea as they often only take a half day. The “key” was what was “reasonably achieved by the leader. With respect to the Boating Safety course, Alex thought it a good idea that all the Scouts were well versed in boating safety – knowing the proper safety techniques in a canoe. Bob and Peter both thought that leaders on canoe trips should have boat safety certifications – and it may even be more prudent to have two leaders with those qualifications on a camping trip that involves canoeing. The question remains where the certification can take place.

Regarding First Aid, Alex’s brother-in-law is a certified First Aid Instructor and could certify the leaders (or re-certify/refresh) for a reasonable fee. Peter suggested the entire First Merrickville Group get recertified which would cost perhaps \$20 per person and might take up half a day or a day. Peter asked if Alex’s brother-in-law certifies under St. John’s and Alex said he will confirm and let us know and will also advise how long the recertification time will take.

Allan put forward a motion that two people become certified in boat safety. Alex asked if the cost would be covered by Scouts Canada. Yes 100%. Allan suggested the group mull the suggestion over until next meeting.

Website

Cd’s for the slide show are available for \$5 – can be requested via email.

Special Events

2007 Scouting Centennial

Next Meeting

April 23, 2006

Susanne’s House: 4 East Street, Burritt’s Rapids, 269-7993