



### *News of the Troop #3*



- √ **Laurel Cavern Trip:** If you haven't heard, the troop (16 scouts/5 adults) had a great experience caving up in Pennsylvania. Besides the climbing, crawling, and stumbling for hours in a very dark, dirty, somewhat wet, and home to numerous species of bats, many scouts also earned the Geology and Climbing merit badges. Those that already had the merit badges were treated Saturday to a side trip to Fort Necessity and General Braddock's grave (Braddock Rd's namesake). Staying at the motel was an especially nice touch, particularly when the scouts noticed the number of troops camping near the caverns in the snow. A special thanks to Laura Clark (Jean-Philippe's mom) for doing all the coordinating with Laurel Caverns and the motel (even though she couldn't attend).
- √ **Signing-off lower-rank requirements:** The troop now has a list of scouts authorized to sign-off on Tenderfoot through First Class skill requirements. This list, IAW BSA advancement policies, has been created based upon names provided by the SPL and approved by the SM. The list will be updated regularly and is an effort to ensure a higher quality of skill instruction.
- √ **Staying at troop meetings:** It has been observed that during some meetings we have had a few scouts disappear and then appear in time for the closing. Scouts must remain in the meeting area until the closing or have permission from an adult leader to meet somewhere else. Enough said...
- √ **Paying for Food:** The current procedure for campouts is that each patrol must plan and purchase their own food – it's an advancement requirement. This requires a scout/family purchasing the food and collecting money from the patrol members either before or after the event. We have not been very good with the collecting money part. If you attended the September or October campouts (you know who you are) and have not paid your portion of the food cost, then contact the patrol leader you camped with to find out how much and whom to pay.
- √ **December's First Aid Program Feature:** The focus is First Aid and aspects of the Communications and Emergency Preparedness merit badges. Contrary to the original plan, scouts will not earn the First Aid merit badge but can complete some of the requirements. The lower-rank scouts that attend both troop meetings and the Disaster Day (15 Dec) will have the opportunity to complete all their First Aid skill requirements. In addition, all scouts have the opportunity to complete Communications MB requirement #6 and Emergency Preparedness MB requirements 7 and 8 a & b. Basic first aid instructors and Disaster Day helpers (senior scouts and/or adults) are needed. Pack 1530 Webelos II scouts will be our "victims" for Disaster Day. Contact Kenny Newcomer if you can help – he is coordinating all aspects of this program feature as a leadership project for Life Scout.
- √ **January's Ski Trip & Snow Sports Program Feature:** We are going to Timberline Ski Resort, Canaan Valley, WV for our troop ski trip. The troop has 25 slots reserved which include scouts and adults. In addition to simply going to ski/snowboard, there is an opportunity to earn the Snow Sports merit badge. There is an additional charge of \$60 and requires a total of 3 hours on Saturday (1 ½ hours each in the morning and the afternoon). Roger Christ, our troop coordinator, will be putting out more information.