



## *News of the Troop #7*

- √ **Troop Expands:** Those coming to troop meetings will notice some new faces and a couple of new patrols. On March 2, we will gain 14 new scout families from Pack 1530! This will have an immediate effect on the troop with such a large infusion of youthful enthusiasm. Two New Scout patrols will be created with Life Scouts Joe O'Shea and Stuart Rock taking on the task of being their Troop Guides. Assistant Scoutmasters Dan Hippe and Andy Wescoat will also directly assist. So next time you're at a meeting, please welcome our newest scouts and their families to Troop 1983.
- √ **Troop and OA Elections:** March 3 will be election night in the troop. We will be doing troop/patrol elections differently this time around. The troop will only elect the SPL and then each patrol will elect their patrol leader. Pre-requisites to run for SPL are being at least Star and SM approval; and for PL is being at least 1st Class. I invite all eligible scouts to run for SPL and PL and take on the challenge of leading the troop over the next 6 months. Those elected must agree to attend Troop Leader Training prior to assuming their leadership position. The term of office will begin April 1 and will run until September 30. **You must let the Scoutmaster know if you plan to run for SPL before March 3.** Order of the Arrow elections will also be that night. To hold the election we must have at least 50% of the troop present – this means 32 scouts. So please make an effort to attend this meeting. To be eligible you must be at least 1<sup>st</sup> Class, have 15 nights of camping in the last 2 years (to include one long term camp), and scoutmaster approval.
- √ **New Scout Patrol/Venture Patrol Changes:** As planned, the 2007-2008 New Scout patrol (Braves) will be absorbed into our three Regular patrols, effective March 3. In consultation with the PLC, the Cobra patrol will gain Gray Liddell and Sean Hanlon; Killer Whales will gain David Reed, Kenneth Hippe, and Jeffrey Yu; and Wolverines will gain Jean-Philippe Ouellet, Paul Burke, and Ethan Wescoat. We are also merging our two Venture patrols into one super-sized patrol. This new patrol of our senior scouts will become the Eagle Patrol – which harks back to one of our original patrol names and describes what these scouts are striving toward.
- √ **Den Chief Training:** Pack 1530 is looking for Den Chiefs and to be the most effective Den Chief you should be trained. Our District is offering training March 8, 8:30-3:30. *Registration is limited to the first 60 participants and you must pre-register by March 1.* The district flyer with more information is attached to the email forwarding this *News of the Troop*. Let Mr. Hippe or Mr. Wescoat know if you are interested in becoming a Den Chief.
- √ **Summer Camp and Merit Badge Sign-up:** As most of you know we're going to Occonechee Council's Camp Durant in central North Carolina from 22-28 June. A \$50 deposit is needed ASAP if you want the Early Bird fee of \$205. Mr. Carstens is collecting checks which must be made out to "Troop 1983". At Durant, scouts can sign-up prior to camp for their merit badges. Information and the form were emailed out earlier and have been provided to our new scouts. Mrs. Cary is collecting the forms and needs them by the March 3 troop meeting. Scouts deciding later to go to camp will have another opportunity to sign-up.
- √ **Orienteering Event:** The Council Orienteering Event is April 5 at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Any scout interested in participating in this exciting sport should contact Mr. Reed before March 14. Scouts will compete in pairs based upon three ability groups – Advanced, Experienced, and Learner. Cost is \$9 and each scout will need a compass (the troop has a few). The council flyer with more information is attached to the email forwarding this *News of the Troop*.