



VENTURING VIEWS



Volume 5, Issue 3

Venturing Crew 1100

March 2007



Crew on the Slopes

January again found the crew nestled in a picturesque valley high in the Allegheny Mountains at Timberline Ski Resort near Davis, West Virginia. With an elevation of over 4,000 feet, a vertical rise of 1,000 feet, and normally an abundant natural snowfall, Timberline is considered a winter paradise.

And so on the weekend of January 19-21, 2007, Troop and Crew 1100 skiers headed for the slopes of West Virginia. In what has traditionally become a combined troop and crew ski trip approximately 65 scouts, venturers, and family members spent two days negotiating the open slopes of Timberline. The key word here, however, is "open" slopes. We have been spoiled in the past and come to expect an abundant amount of snow, but due to weather conditions on the East coast this year, the area had had limited snowfall to date and the troop/crew did not bring it with them as has also been a tradition.

The good news, however, is that the temperature had begun to fall from some record-setting January highs the week before and the ski area was making snow as fast as possible. The combined cold temperatures and snowmaking still made for a wintry environment as we schussed down the three slopes that were open, to include Salamander which is a favorite for young and old, beginner and expert. This was perhaps the bleakest snow that we have had in nine years of skiing Timberline, but it did not deter the spirits of our skiers and boarders as they took to the slopes and mastered that timeless skill of pointing them downhill. With all of the snow canons blasting their

snow, and sometimes skiers, the mountain looked and felt like a stormy, hostile area but everyone appreciated the opportunity to be back on the slopes. We enjoyed a full day of skiing on Saturday and a half day on Sunday when, you guessed it, it began to snow. And so as we are driving away from the ski area in the most mountainous part of the state we had to then negotiate the wintry roads back to Burke.



In the end, our annual ski trip was another outstanding success. We were again well accommodated in our traditional bunkhouse "boxes" and enjoyed the fellowship of our many friends whether careening down the slopes or hanging out in the lodge. Well done to all of our crew skiers **Chris Colton, Sean Gray, Devin Gray, Mikhail Payson, Haley Puffenbarger, Ashley Richardson, Katie Wurdack, Mr. and Mrs. Cass, Mrs. Gray and Mr. Melchior.**

Scout Sunday - A Scout Tradition!

By Ali Miserendino

On the first Sunday of February 2007, scouts from Nativity Parish gathered to commemorate the birthday of Boy Scouting (February 8, 1910) and to exemplify a scout's reverence toward God. Tigers to Eagles, Daisies to Seniors, Venturing Crew Scouts, and Scouters, congregated at 9 a.m. mass to celebrate "Scout Sunday." A tradition started 10 years ago.

What began several years ago with a handful of boy scouts gathered on the first Sunday of February to mark the birthday of scouting was transformed in 1997 into a Scouting commemorative mass and family breakfast. With the assistance of the Knights of Columbus, BSA Troop 1100 invited all Catholic scouts in our parish, boys and girls, of all ranks to celebrate the Eucharist at 9 a.m. mass followed by a family breakfast prepared by the Knights. A well attended event from the very beginning, 70 – 100 scouts participate in Scout Sunday each year.

This year was no different! As is customary, banner bearers from each scouting unit processed into church followed by two columns of scouts, youngest to oldest, girls and boys. Approximately 80 scouts and scouters were seated at the front of the church. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Kevin O'Keefe, an Eagle Scout himself, assisted by altar servers and lectors from girl and boy scouting units. Father O'Keefe talked about the positive impact scouting has on young people, including their morals and values.

After mass, the scouts and their families moved to the parish hall, which consistent with tradition was decorated the evening before by Troop 1100 scouts. Entrees of scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, and fruit, were served with juice and coffee to upwards of 200 people. There was a static display of a boy scout camp and a cool slide show featuring high adventure activities. What better way to celebrate the birthday of scouting than with prayer and pancakes in the company of friends and family!

Crew Web Site, Photo Site, Notices

Venturing Crew 1100's website at www.crew1100.com also has photos posted of our activities. Click on the link from our website to view and download photo albums of your favorite trips. If you have other Crew photos you would like to share, or ideas about the website, please send them to Mrs. Gray at crew1100@troop1100.com. Thanks!



President's Corner

By Katie Wurdack

Another quarter has flown by quickly. As usual, it was filled with many fun and exciting events for our crew. Throughout this term, everyone participated to the best of their ability and made this quarter one in which many people grew a little greater in their leadership abilities. From the Venturing Leadership Skills Course to the Wilderness Survival, we covered a lot of ground in the past three months. For some it is quite a feat to stand up in front of others and teach. I would like to congratulate those who may have faced a fear or simply spoke easily to others. Either way, teaching is one of the greatest ways to show leadership and knowledge of a particular subject. Those who have done so have represented Venturing in one of the best ways possible. It is not only in participation of outdoor activities that we show our colors, but also in spreading the magnitude of the outdoor world with others. Based on the actions of our members I can tell that the only direction this crew can go in right now is up. With only one and a half months left until our summer adventures, I look forward to new events and an enjoyable spring quarter.

Keep In Touch

Most of the information about Crew 1100 activities is distributed via email. If you are not receiving these email messages, or if there is a problem with the email address used, or if you change your email address, please advise Mrs. Gray at crew1100@troop1100.com or your president, Katie Wurdack, at horsecrazyforevr@aim.com. Thanks for your support of your Crew!

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

By Kimmi Johnston

It was a cold February morning and members of Boy Scout Troop 1100 and Crew 1100 met to learn and teach the art of Wilderness Survival at Camp Snyder, VA. Wilderness Survival is, in short, the knowledge of how to survive in the wilderness. It is a Merit Badge for Boy Scouts and an opportunity for Crew members to pass on their wisdom of each particular subject.

Four very brave Venturers (**Megan, Ashley, Sean, and I**) faced the chill and offered to teach three groups of Boy Scouts different subjects. Megan, with the help of the Richards, led the fire building station while Ashley and Mr. Cass taught how to find and purify water. Sean was busy helping Mr. and Mrs. Sproull with cooking while my dad and I taught signaling.

Each Boy Scout group started at one of four stations. At each station they learned different survival techniques from their adult and Venturer trainer and then rotated to the next station. Each two person team of Crew member and leader used different techniques to help the Scouts learn all they needed to know. Some of the stations were very hands-on, while others required more observation.

I wish I could describe in detail each station, but needless to say, I didn't get to see very much of all the other groups as I was busy teaching signaling. Signaling is being able to send distress signals when you are lost or injured. I demonstrated a variety of signaling tools (courtesy of none other than Mr. Meehan) to the course participants and explained the use of each. My cloth flip-board seemed to be a big hit with the adult leaders, but it was really my dad's idea. I just stayed up all night making it ☺ After that, I demonstrated how to use a mirror to attract attention and then tested the boys on this skill. With the help of Mrs. Sproull I set some signals out in the woods and then asked the Scouts to find them, thus teaching them not only how to make signals but how to recognize them as well.

But the wilderness survival stations were not the only things out there that day; we also had fun on the rope bridge. Matt and Chris Richard (past Scouts of Troop 1100 and now adults) showed me how to gather fire-making materials and make fires when they weren't busy with a group. I got to meet a bunch of great Scouts that were fun to talk to and hang out with. It made me a lot less nervous to teach when the guys were all very nice and laid-back. I can't speak for everyone, but I know I had fun at Wilderness Survival, and I hope everyone else did too.



Venturing Leadership Skills Course

By Haley Puffenbarger

Of the seven methods of Venturing designed to meet the needs of young adults, the first and perhaps most important is Leadership. All Venturers are given opportunities to learn and apply proven leadership skills. The Venturing Leadership Skills Course (VLSC) is designed for all Venturers in the crew and was created to help teach young adults the attitudes and skills that good leaders demonstrate.

The Venturing Leadership Skills Course is a series of leadership modules divided into four categories: Vision, Communication, Organization, and Synergism. Venturing crews are encouraged to conduct a Crew VLSC at least biannually or anytime there is a significant change in crew membership. The VLSC is also a requirement for the venturing Silver Award.

During the months of January and February 2007, Venturing Crew 1100 conducted its biannual Venturing Leadership Skills Course. Over the course of four weekly meetings, crew members participated in leadership discussions and interacted through initiative games and role-playing scenarios each designed to help teach participants the attitudes and skills that good leaders demonstrate. The VLSC was co-taught by crew advisors and members who had previously completed VLSC. Thanks for all of the efforts of our facilitators - **Mr. Melchior, Mr. & Mrs. Sproull, Mr. Miserendino, and Mr. Cass.** In addition to completing this valuable leadership training, each crew member who successfully completed all four modules is entitled to wear the VLSC trained tab.

Congratulations to **Sean Gray, Megan Jaster, Kimmi Johnston, Ali Miserendino, Mikhail Payson, Haley Puffenbarger, Ashley Richardson, and Katie Wurdack** on their completion of the Venturing Leadership Skills Course.



Cave Exploration

By Katie Wurdack

For the sixth consecutive year, a few brave and hearty souls from the crew found their way underground in March. While the perennial conflicts all seemed to come together on the same weekend, four crew members journeyed out to wild and wonderful West Virginia on Saturday, 24 March, to engage in this year's caving trip.

Leaving from Burke early Saturday morning, our goal was Cave Mountain Cave near Franklin, WV. Situated high above the South Branch of the Potomac River, Cave Mountain is undermined with an extensive cave system that affords the intermediate spelunker an opportunity to safely explore numerous cave passages and levels. Upon our arrival in a remote farm field that was to be the parking area, we could not see the mountain for the clouds and fog that covered our approach. After putting on our gear, we hiked approximately 1 ½ miles up hill in the fog and haze to a high bluff where we found the entrance to the cave. After donning the last of our gear, we crawled through the gate about 10:30 and began our exploration.

The cave sits high atop Cave Mountain and has three levels with ceiling heights up to 80 feet. It is about 2.5 miles long and the site of the oldest saltpeter works in present-day West Virginia. We started the day by exploring the first level main passageway back to what is called the crystal room, where crystalline quartz deposits cover a large wall along the route. Once there, we had time to admire the delicate formations before continuing on for another ¼ mile or so to a large pile of breakdown which obstructed the main passage. While we were able to negotiate our way through and continue on, we decided to turn

around at this point and go back so as to have time to explore the other levels of the cave. When we got back to the register room near the entrance, we had lunch and afterwards descended to the second level exploring it in both directions. As we were running short on time, we decided to not go on to the third level but returned to the entrance from which we emerged at 5:00 p.m. We had spent over six hours in the cave, by ourselves, and had a wonderful experience.



As we crawled back out of the opening in the rock, we were greeted by a warm, sunny day and all of the fog and haze of the morning was gone. We had a spectacular view of the West Virginia countryside and the Potomac River running in the valley far below us. It was a cheerful walk through the woods back down to the parking area and a pleasant drive home. While we wish other crew members could have joined us, our small group made for leisurely trip in the cave and plenty of time to admire the formations and cave critters and to carefully mark our way. From our furthest point in the cave, I led the group back out following Mr. Melchior's carefully placed orange tape markers. Well done to our small group of cavers: **Katie Wurdack, Danny and Alaine Sproull, and Mr. Melchior.**

Advisor's Minute

A New Beginning

By Mrs. Gray



Spring is the time that brings to mind new beginnings, and that's what is in store for this Crew after a busy winter. We finished a first-rate quarter with some excellent examples of leadership. The Crew completed the Venturing Skills Leadership Course, and various Crew members led some outstanding discussions on leadership lessons learned. We also witnessed youth leadership at its best from the Armed Forces Retirement Home, to the ski slopes, the classroom, and the cold, snowy Wilderness Survival instruction.

The time ahead will see the Crew focus on saying goodbye to older members, and bringing on new members to help shape our Crew. Our annual canoe trip will be held over Memorial Weekend and are bike trip is being discussed for June. We are blessed to have a wonderful group of youth in our Crew, and the support of a myriad of adults. Together we will attain our recruiting goal, and employ that special touch to ensure that our next year is as terrific as our past years have been.



Crew Upcoming Events

- May 3** Swim Test at South Run Rec Center (Free)
- May 10** Meeting at 7:30 (Canoe Prep)
- May 17** Meeting at 7:30 (Canoe Prep)
- May 24** Officers' Meeting
- May 25-27** Canoe Trip
- June 7** Meeting at 7:30
- June 9** Venturing Eco Challenge
- June 14** End-of-Year Party
- June 21** Meeting at 7:30
- July 5** NO Meeting
- July 12** Meeting at 7:30
- July 19** Meeting at 7:30

Good Turn for America

Good Turn for America is a national call to service by the Boy Scouts of America to address the issues of hunger, homelessness, and poor health in our nation. In this effort, the Boy Scouts of America is partnering with some of the nation's most respected service organizations, including The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and the American Red Cross. These organizations, and thousands of others, will work to provide opportunities for youth and volunteers to fight hunger and homelessness, and teach the habits of healthy living.

Crew 1100 has earned this award for 2006 by participating in the following: Scouting for Food. visiting and singing to residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home – Washington and helping to build a trail at Lake Mercer. Congratulations to all who have supported these service projects throughout the year!

Crew 1100 earns Quality Unit



Venturing Crew 1100 was awarded Quality Unit honors for the year 2006. In order to earn the honor, the Crew had to elect its officers and hold a Crew officers' seminar, have trained and two deep adult leadership among the Crew Advisors, and complete the re-chartering process before

the end of December. The crew also qualified by having at least two meetings per month, performing service projects for the community, having a Super Activity and holding an open house to attract new members.



Friends of Scouting

With the help of eleven generous donors, Venturing Crew 1100 raised over \$1900 for the Friends of Scouting Program! This annual program, conducted by the National Capitol Area Council (NCAC), helps provide our youth with a quality-scouting program.

The monies collected are used for a variety of activities from the local to the council level. Some examples are:

- Provide, without charge, dozens of regular and special forms, applications, certificates and literature, helpful in unit programs.
- Make reservations for films, equipment, long term camping, day camps, short-term camps, camporees, jamborees, training courses, meetings, Venturing activities, and annual council and district meetings.
- Set up and conduct various types of activities in which units participate such as Scout Anniversary Month and community service projects.
- Organize Venturer events and absorbs the losses where they occur.
- Work with various community groups to arrange for Scout participation in civic affairs.
- The major portion of expense connected with leader training camps, programs and council-wide Venturer activities.
- Provide a limited number of partial scholarships or "camperships" for Scouts who need some financial help to have a summertime camp experience.
- Offer units the high adventure of Philmont Scout Ranch, Wilderness Canoe Trips, and National Jamborees

Thank you to the generous donors of this worthwhile program!