



Crew Returns to Rappahannock River

By Kimmi Johnston

In May of 2002, a newly formed crew conducted its first aquatic activity, a canoe trip along the remote and scenic Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg, VA. Over the Memorial Day weekend of 25-27 May 2007, Crew 1100 returned to the river, and camped alongside its wild and scenic banks. On Friday evening, the crew established its base camp with our friends Steve and Katy at the Rappahannock River Campground and enjoyed an evening of friendship and fellowship under a starry sky before retiring for the night.



Saturday morning brought a 6:00 AM wakeup and a no-cook breakfast before reporting to the outfitter for our safety briefing and equipment issue. Given the age and experience of this year's crew, we elected to go for a longer and more difficult run starting near Remington, VA. The run between Remington and Kelly's Ford, five miles downriver, is known for some of the best whitewater on the Rappahannock. We pushed off from the shore at approximately 9:30, and while the water level was down, all of our canoeists successfully negotiated the river obstacles and had an enjoyable run. After a brief stop at Kelly's Ford to discuss some of the Civil War actions that took place there, we were again on our way for another couple of miles before stopping for lunch and a chance to play in the water along a grassy shoreline. The crew continued to paddle through the hot afternoon next stopping at Castle Rock to "rumpbump"

through the rapids and enjoy an old rope swing over the river's cool waters. Along the way we were fortunate to encounter a lone bald eagle soaring down the river as if to salute our efforts on this patriotic weekend. We arrived back at our campsite at 5:00 PM after having spent nearly eight hours and 15 miles on the river. Then it was personal cleanup and everyone pitched in to help prepare ingredients for our foil pack dinner. Later a tired crew retired for the evening with memories of a most enjoyable day.



Sunday morning we were up again at 6:00 AM, broke down camp and were then treated to a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage from the Dutch oven. After another safety brief, we launched our canoes from the outfitter's ramp around 8:30 and were on our way destined for Mott's Landing, 13 miles away. Our canoeists had to use all of their skills to negotiate a mile-long rock garden before and then another at the confluence of the Rapidan River. Noon brought another delicious shore lunch on a pretty sandbar and a chance to cool off in the river. After lunch we had good water and by 2:00 PM were at our destination where we were met by our outfitter and transported back to our cars.

By 4:00 PM, 14 happy canoeists headed for home with fond memories and high hopes for another trip next year. Congratulations and well done Hilary Adams, Mr. Cass, Bryan DeRosa, Eric Eichelberger, Sean Gray, Mrs. Gray, Megan Jaster, Mr. Jaster, Kimmie Johnston, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Melchior, Mikhail Payson, Katie Wurdack, Will Zivich and our support Mrs. Wurdack.

Toner Attains Eagle Rank

On Saturday, June 9th, Crew 1100 and Troop 1100 came together to advance Bob Toner to the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Court of Honor was held at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield. Bob became the second member of Crew 1100 to make Eagle Scout through the Crew.

The ceremony began with a slide show review of Bob's history in scouting. He started as a Cub Scout in Illinois, Virginia and Kansas, then was a member of Troops in Kansas and Germany before coming back to Virginia. Mr. Terry Meehan, our Associate Advisor and Unit Commissioner, gave the keynote address, and Mr. Ted Wong, Troop 1100 Scoutmaster, gave Bob the Eagle charge and administered the Eagle pledge. Crew President Katie Wurdack joined several others in reading the Responsibilities of the Eagle as part of the ceremony, and Mrs. Cass presented the Eagle awards on behalf of the Crew. After the Court of Honor, the Toners put on a hamburger and hot dog cookout for all present.

Bob's service project for Eagle last September brought 20 Scouts, Venturers and other friends together at Lake Mercer to refurbish a section of the trail leading to the lake, build new trail, and also construct a bridge over a small stream.

CREW Going To SEA BASE

Crew 1100 has a reservation at Florida Sea Base next summer. We have a place in the SCUBA certification program for the week of July 9 – 16, 2007. At Sea Base, Venturers will earn SCUBA certification from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors in the first part of the week, then have at least four open water dives before coming home. We will be living in air-conditioned dormitories ashore during our stay. We are also considering the possibility of adding a few days to the trip to tour the local area and to add one or two days of additional ocean diving on our own.

The estimated cost of the trip is about \$1250 (depending on transportation and lodging costs in 2008), plus any lodging, food and diving costs for additional days before or after the week at Sea Base.

Calendar

July 4	Independence Day
July 5	No Meeting
July 12	Meeting at 7:30
July 19	Meeting at 7:30
July 26	NO Meeting
Aug 2	Meeting at 7:30 (White Water Rafting)
Aug 4-5	White Water Rafting Trip
Aug 9	Meeting at 7:30 - Elections, '07-'08 Planning
Aug 16	Meeting at 7:30
Aug 23	New Officers' Seminar
Sep 3	Labor Day
Sep 6	Meeting at 7:30
Sep 13	Meeting at 7:30 - Open House Prep
Sep 20	Open House
Sep 27	No Meeting
Oct 3	Meeting at 7:30
Oct 5-7	Venturing Rendezvous

Although we have our reservation in hand, we have to make a final commitment to Sea Base by the end of the summer. If you are interested, let us know as soon as possible. Contact Mrs. Cass if you would like more information.



Crew 1100 Leaders Recognized For Sustained Superior Service

At the Patriot District's Annual Recognition Dinner held May 22, 2007, two Crew 1100 leaders were recognized for their service to the unit and district Scouting programs. **Mr. Lee Cass** was awarded the district's Distinguished Patriot Scouter Award (DPSA) and **Mr. Bob Melchior** was awarded the Patriot Spirit Award (PSA). District awards are presented annually to recognize adult leaders who have provided outstanding service at the unit and district level.



Lee Cass, Crew Committee Member, has been an adult advisor with Crew 1100 since its formation in 2000. A committee member with Troop and Crew 1100, Mr. Cass has provided extensive service to both units in a variety of positions. He has over 10 years adult service to Scouts and the Scouting program. At the district level, Mr. Cass serves as the Good Turn for America Chairman, Assistant District Commissioner for Venturing, and on the camporee committee. The DPSA is unique to the Patriot District and is presented annually to an adult Scout leader who has had a significant impact on the Scouting program within the district. It is awarded on the basis of only one per every ten unit chartered within the district.



Bob Melchior, currently Crew 1100 Associate Advisor, served over five years as crew's first crew advisor. Prior to organizing the crew, Mr. Melchior was an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 1100 for six years and has served as Troop Committee Chairman and assistant scoutmaster for troops located in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. He has over 20 years of adult service to the Scouting program. Mr. Melchior has varied service at the unit and district level over an extended period of time. The PSA is presented annually on the basis of one per unit to recognize Scouters who have distinguished themselves with singularly outstanding service. Past Crew 1100 Patriot Spirit Award recipients include Mrs. Carol Cass, Mrs. Maureen Gray, and Mr. David Zivich, Mrs. Andrea Olivieri, Mr. Rich Comiso, Mr. Lee Cass, and Mr. Dan Sproull, Jr.

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!

Fiesta Questa

Six members of Crew 1100 enjoyed the Fiesta Questa held April 13-15 at Camp Bashore, Jonestown, PA. : **Sean Gray, Bob Toner, Katie Wurdack, Mrs. Cass, Mrs. Gray and Mr. Meehan.**

Weekend activities, included technical tree climbing, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, Geocaching, horse back riding, caving, mountain biking, COPE, SCUBA, archery, shooting sports and Salsa Dancing. Ask Katie, the “bike chic” about her experience. Also, elections were held for the Northeast Region Area 4 Venturing Officers Association (NE4 AVOA).

The purpose of the NE4 AVOA is to coordinate the annual Venturing Quest, and provide program support to Council and local VOA’s as well as individual crews when needed, including training and events. NE Area 4 is comprised of twenty councils. Each council had youth representatives vote for the VOA Officers with a maximum of ten votes per council. Our Crew voted with the National Capital Area Council. Katie Wurdack was an Interfaith Service singer and speaker; and Terry Meehan was a Shooting Range Assistant.

Cycling the C&O Canal

By Eric Eichelberger

Over the weekend of 15-17 June 2007, Venturing Crew 1100 cycled over 60 miles along the historic and scenic C&O Canal from Cumberland to Hancock, MD. Crew members attending this outing were Hilary Adams, Eric Eichelberger, Valerie Jones, Tony Olivieri, Katie Wurdack, Will Zivich and advisors Maria Olivieri, Mr. Jones, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Melchior.



For more pictures from the Quest see the NE4AVOA website (www.ne4avoa.org) by clicking the Gallery tab. The 2008 Venturing Quest will be held April 11-13, 2008 at Camp Bucoco (Moraine Trails Council), located in near Slippery Rock, PA



Starting at Cumberland, MD, the northern terminus of the canal, the crew started their adventure at the newly renovated visitor center area where we had the opportunity to tour the museum and learn about the C&O Canal. Shortly before 10:00 AM the crew started down the trail stopping along the way to view and discuss the canal, locks, houses and aqueducts. At Lock #75, we were able to see a completely renovated lock and tour the lockkeeper's house. After biking more several more miles in the sun, it was time for lunch at Old Town delivered by our great ground support, Mr. Jackson.



After lunch, we still had about twelve miles remaining to return to our campsite at the Paw Paw tunnel. The wonderful weather allowed for a leisurely ride and the opportunity to enjoy the canal. After about five hours and 29 miles of riding, the crew arrived back to our campsite at the Paw-Paw tunnel. After cleaning up, we drove to Little Orleans, MD, for church and supper at Bill's Orleans Grocery before driving back to the campsite for a relaxing evening and bed.

Early the next morning, we biked through the 3,118-foot Paw Paw tunnel, a prominent feature along the canal, and discussed its construction and history. The sun made for a warm day of pedaling but the tree-lined towpath offered us plenty of shade and an enjoyable ride. We met Mr. Jackson for lunch about 20 miles into the day where he had put out a terrific spread fit for our hungry cyclists. The last leg of the ride was from lunch to Hancock for a total of 32 miles on Sunday and 61 miles for the weekend.

Throughout the entire trip, there were no bike problems and everyone completed all 61 miles. Biking the north section of the C&O canal was a great way to kick off the summer season.



Crew End-of-Year Picnic

By Hilary Adams

On Thursday evening, June 21, Crew 1100 held their end-of-the-year picnic at Burke Lake Park. The weather was excellent and just suited for an evening in the park. Mr. Melchior had gone over to the park early to reserve a nice shelter and several of us arrived early to start setting up. Most of the crew arrived around 6:00 PM and enjoyed the fellowship of the evening and the glorious weather. It was great to see so many crew members and family out for the picnic.

In short order, we started the grill and started cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs. While our outstanding chefs were fixing up the burgers and dogs, other crew members were chilling out with a cool drink and just enjoying the moment. And while the grilling took a little longer than expected, the food came out excellent. Thanks to Oscar Adams for leading the cooking effort. Each of our families chipped in with side dishes ranging from coleslaw to baked beans and potato salad, and Katie brought ice cream for dessert.

Throughout the evening everyone had a great time sharing memories of the past year's expeditions and catching up on the latest news from the home to college front. Katie, our crew president, thanked everyone for coming and then bid farewell to Haley Puffenbarger who will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy, Kimmi Johnston who is leaving with her family for Arkansas, and Bob Toner who is headed off to college. We wished them the best of luck in their future pursuits and hope that they will come back and participate in crew activities when they are in the area.





President's Corner

by Katie Wurdack

Sweet summertime. How great it is to finally have reached this point in the year having grown both mentally and physically over the past nine months! From the Hike-O-Ree (oh those caterpillars), to skiing down thrilling terrain at Timberline, to canoeing on the Rappahannock River, we have all grown closer to each other and more willing to try new things. This past year Venture Crew has accomplished so much in such little time. As we all break out for summer, we will continue to grow and have so much fun doing it. I'm looking forward to what lies ahead for us and backwards to how much we have already done. I wish everyone an exciting summer filled with good times and great memories. Don't forget to bring back some new friends in the fall!

Advisor's Minute

by Mrs. Gray



Another fun-filled year, our seventh for the Crew, and just as exciting as the others! Our year started with the most attended Open House in the history of the Crew. We hiked a beautiful trek on Piney Ridge/Piney Branch Circuit in the Shenandoah, taught Wilderness Survival, skied in West Virginia, learned about leadership with the Venturing Leadership Skills Course, did technical tree climbing in Pennsylvania, went underground in Cave Mountain, biked the C&O Canal, canoed the Rappahannock, visited our veterans at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington D.C., assisted with Scout Sunday, collected food, and helped build a trail at Lake Mercer. We had two spectacular Parents Meetings including a Luau with all the decorations, music and food! What a wonderful and talented Crew!

We say farewell to our graduates who sail off into the college sunset, but who stay in touch and attend events as schedules allow. Haley, much luck to you at the Air Force Academy! Bob, good luck in Florida (or is it New York?).

To Kimmi and her Dad, Cliff, we will miss you and look forward to your return from Arkansas in a few years. You both are super Crew members and we appreciate all you did to help us.

With the New Year it is time to look to the future. Our coming months include a White Water Rafting trip to Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania and our next long adventure is SCUBA certification and diving in Florida.

Now is the time to think about what other activities you would like to do and come to our planning meeting in August with lots of ideas. We need to continue our recruiting efforts and I ask each of you to call those youth who are interested in joining our Crew and invite them to our meetings.

I wish to thank all the adults who have contributed to our success over the years. We can't do it without you. You are always welcome to come along on our activities and lend a hand!

Enjoy those lazy days of summer!

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!