



December 2006
Volume 2, Issue 3

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SMOKE SIGNALS



Camp Nihan Thanksgiving Feast

What better way to spend the weekend before Thanksgiving, than camping at Camp Nihan. Troop and Crew 121 from Lynn invited our Troop and other area Troops and Packs to join them in celebrating Thanksgiving. We arrived on Saturday morning and got right to work. Patrick L., Chris C., and Robbie Z. attending a Junior Leader Training course. This course provided them with some basic training as Junior Leaders of the Troop. When time permitted, we worked on individual advancement. As always, we are always looking for opportunities to sign-off handbooks.

The high point of the day, was of course the feast. Troop and Crew 121 put on quite a Thanksgiving feast. They cooked two deep-fried turkeys, ham, and all of the normal Thanksgiving fixings. There were so many Scouts in attendance, we had to sit in a couple shifts. Looks like this event is getting very popular.

A big thank you goes out to Larry and Karen Lawless, and the Scouts of Troop and Crew 121 from Lynn.



Blitz to First Class

On Saturday December 9th, six Scouts spent a day at Brooksby Farm working on some of the outdoor related requirements for Tenderfoot Second and First Class. After arriving bright and early at 8:30AM, the day was off to a quick start. We were blessed with a light dusting of snow in the parking lot. This gave us the opportunity to examine different animal tracks in the snow.

Robbie and Cameron served as patrol cooks for the day. They cooked three meals, did the cleanup, and helped other Scouts cook tinfoil dinners at lunchtime. Dinner was ziti with chicken and broccoli. We also had a pizza-like meal cooked in a Dutch oven.

During the day, Scouts were busy learning woodcraft, and fire starting. Jessie lit a great fire with a single match. Of course, we worked on knots and lashings. A couple nice camp gadgets were built, including a weather rock tripod, and a bench that supported the weight of a couple Scouts, albeit very briefly.

An orienteering course was set up, that covered a mile of Brooksby Farm. Cameron and Christopher found all the control markers with little or no help. Something new, the Scouts learned how to figure out the distance to a distant object, without actually being able to walk to it. Everyone had a chance to use a distance computer and figure their pace.

This event was held to help Scouts advance, and it worked. Robbie has finished First Class, and Jessie finished Second Class. All Scouts who attended made significant progress towards their next rank

Our New Treasurer

After many years of service as our Troop Treasurer, Mrs. Lynch will be handing over the checkbook to Mr. Crabb. With George graduating in the spring, Mrs. Lynch thought she would be less active with the Troop.

We all thank her for the years of service to the Troop. We also want to thank Mr. Crabb for stepping up to take over. ■

Our Newest Eagle

Congratulations goes out to Rob Anderson for passing his Eagle board of review on November 22nd. This has been a long time coming. Rob now joins the small percentage of Scouts who go all the way to Eagle.

Rob's Eagle Court of Honor will be planned for sometime after the first of the year. ■

AMC Hike

On December 2nd, several Scouts and leaders joined the Appalachian Mountain Club for a seven mile hike in the Middlesex Fells area of Stoneham. For those how missed this, we will be planning more of these hikes in the future. ■

Turkey Shoot

Once again, the Troop went to the Danvers Fish and Game Club for the annual turkey shoot. We had a low turnout, so the relay consisted of Scouts, adult leaders and a few siblings. Mr. Early took home the bird. Andrew and his sister Becca tied for last, and took home a small canned ham for their efforts.

Once again, in another relay, the Zarrella family won a bird. It seems as though the Zarrella's have the secret to winning turkeys. ■

Scoutmaster's Minute

\$20.00

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill.

In the room of 200, he asked, who would like this \$20 bill?

Hands started going up.

He said, I am going to give this to one of you, but first, let me do this.

He proceeded to crumple the bill up. He then asked, who still wants it?

Still the hands were up in the air.

Well, he replied, what if I do this? He dropped it on the ground, and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty.

Now, who still wants it?

Still hands went into the air.

My friends, you all have learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it, because, it did not decrease in value. It was still worth 20 dollars.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way.

We feel that we are worthless, but, no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you.

The worth of our lives come not in what we do, or who we know, but, by who we are.

You are special, don't ever forget it!

Pass this on to those you care about, even the one who sent it to you. You will never know the lives it touches, the hurting hearts it speaks to, or the hope that it can bring.

Always count your blessings, not your problems. ■

Month Events

December 20th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

December 27th
Christmas Vacation
No Meeting

January 3rd
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

January 10th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

January 17th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

January 23rd
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

February 9th
7:00 St. John's
Webelo Crossover

February 10th
Brooksby Farm
Klondike Derby

Always look to the calendar on web site for the latest schedule!

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KNOTS OF THE MONTH

In the second of the Knot of the Month series, this month the bowline will be reviewed. The bowline is also known as the “rescue knot.”

This knot is used to make a temporary eye (loop) in a line. It is commonly used in sailing small craft, for example to fasten a line to the head of a sail. The Federal Aviation Administration recommends the bowline knot for tying down light aircraft. It is commonly referred to as the rescue knot because it can be tied around oneself one-handed, and is used to lift people out of dangerous situations.



When a bowline is tied in a line, the line retains about 60-75% of its original strength. This knot is known to never slip, and is easy to untie (or sometimes called **Non-Jamming**).

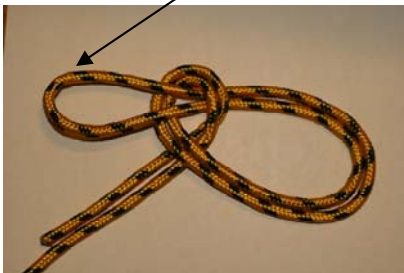
This is the knot shown in the Boy Scout handbook

A **double bowline** is more secure loop than a regular bowline. The double bowline retains 70-75% of the line strength.

Tying: First, learn to tie the bowline by laying the working end on the standing part and twisting to form a loop (the "hole" that the rabbit comes out of). Wrap the loop once more around the working end. Then pass the working end behind the standing part and back down through the double loop



This is the **bight**



The **bowline on a bight** (a U-shaped loop in a rope) makes a pair of fixed-sized loops in the middle of a rope. Its advantages are that its loops do not slip and it is reasonably easy to untie after being strained. As a rescue knot, each leg could be slipped through one of the loops.

The bight of rope is initially used to make a bowline in the usual way (picture on left). However, the bowline is NOT completed by going on round the standing end(s) and tucking the bight back down beside itself. Instead, the bight is opened up to allow the whole knot to pass through it (see picture on right). When tightened, the bight now embraces the pair of standing ends.

