

SMOKE SIGNALS



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What To Do With a Compass or GPS



Once you have learned the basics of navigation by knowing how to orient and read a map, now what? One of the requirements for First Class is to complete an orienteering course. Orienteering consists of locating flags, or controls, by using a map and compass. The controls are placed in areas where they can be found by looking at the geographic features on the map, and relating them to what you see. They can be placed on the top of a hill, where a stone wall crosses a path, etc... All of these features are fairly easy to see on a map. At a competitive level, the idea is to finish the course as fast as possible, running between the controls. Orienteering is a very popular sport, particularly in Europe. There is even a version of orienteering done underwater. This is certainly not a spectator sport.

To learn more about orienteering, one of the best books around is "*Be Expert With Map and Compass*" by Bjorn Kjellstrom. This book is considered to be the bible for orienteering. To learn more about Orienteering or to participate in a local event, check out the New England Orienteering Club at www.neoc.org. At this site, upcoming events are listed.

A high-tech version of orienteering is Geocaching. Containers are hid, usually in the woods. Armed with the coordinates of the cache and a gps, the idea is to find the cache. This may sound easy, but it is usually not. The gps will get you close, but then you often have to look under rocks or trees to find the container. Some of the containers are very small, making the search harder. Once you find the cache, you log your visit at the website. There are usually small trinkets to trade in the cache. To learn more about geocaching, check our www.geocaching.com. ■



Troop 119's Newest Eagle Scout

A hearty congratulations goes out to Patrick O.. On January 17th, he successfully passed his board-of-review for Eagle. Patrick became the first new Eagle in the Aquila District for 2006! His board was conducted by several long-time Scouters and lasted a couple hours. Clearly this is not something taken lightly.

The results of the board of review are now sent to the national Scout office in Texas for processing. After the application is processed there, Patrick will officially be an Eagle Scout.

The next step will his Court-of-Honor. Typically, a Scout plans this himself. Of course, the leaders lend a hand. This will be a very memorable event for all, in particular for the Scout. That is why the Scout takes such an active role in the planning.

Often times, the Scout will send out letters to government officials, leaders of industry, etc to let them know the Scout has achieved his Eagle. These people will often then send a congratulatory letter to the Scout for his great achievement. Of course, you get a letter from the President of the United States.

The Court-of-Honor will be a night to remember. Usually, local government officials, clergy etc attend the ceremony. The local press is informed as well, and could send a reporter and/or photographer.

Each year, typically in February, the council holds its Eagle Scout banquet. At this event, the Eagle Scouts are matched up with a spon-

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Morse Code at the Klondike?

In last month's Smoke Signals, we discussed semaphore signaling and how it could be part of the upcoming Klondike Derby. Another form of signaling is Morse Code. This is done with a series of dots and dashes to represent each letter. This was done with telegraph machines in the past. When spoken, short signals are referred to as "dih" and long signal are "dah." You can also do it with a flashlight.

Below is a chart of the international Morse Code. Ok, most of you will never use an A with umlaut, (Ä) but here is the whole chart.

The most common and well-known Morse code is SOS. This is the standard distress signal. SOS was officially adopted at the second Berlin Radiotelegraphic Conference 1906. The SOS signal is:



This signal was chosen because of its unmistakable character. There are to be no pauses between the letters. And no, the letters SOS do not stand for "Save Our Ship", "Save Our Souls", or anything the like. It is simply the easiest and most clear signal for distress. ■

INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE

A	• —	N	— •	1	• — — — —	Ñ	— — • — —	N with tilde	
B	— • • • •	O	— — — —	2	• • — — — —	Ö	— — — •	O with umlaut	
C	— • — • •	P	• — — • •	3	• • • — — —	Ü	• • — — —	U with umlaut	
D	— • • •	Q	— — • — —	4	• • • • —	,	— — • • — —	comma	
E	•	R	• — • •	5	• • • • •	.	• — • — • —	period	
F	• • — • •	S	• • • •	6	— • • • •	?	• • — — • •	question mark	
G	— — •	T	—	7	— — • • •	;	— • • — —	semicolon	
H	• • • •	U	• • —	8	— — — • •	:	— — — • • •	colon	
I	• •	V	• • • —	9	— — — — •	/	— • • — •	slash	
J	• — — —	W	• — —	0	— — — — —	-	— • • • • —	dash	
K	— • —	X	— • • —	Á	• — — • —	A with accent	'	• — — — •	apostrophe
L	• — • • •	Y	— • — —	Ä	• — — —	A with umlaut	ö	— • — — —	parenthesis
M	— —	Z	— — • •	É	• • • • •	E with accent	_	• • — — • —	underline

Rock Climbing at Dick's

Recently we held our the Troop meeting at Dick's Sporting goods and used the climbing wall for a couple hours. This was a fun diversion from the normal routine.

Kory and Cameron were a couple of the most adventurous Scouts taking on the challenge of one of the more difficult routes. This required them to navigate an overhang.

The Leaders decided to stay a little closer to terra firma. ■



Troop 119's Newest Eagle Scout

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sor. This sponsor is usually involved in the occupation that most interests the Scout. As he earned his Eagle in 2006, Patrick has to wait until next year to attend the banquet. After the banquet, the sponsor (or mentor) may invite the Scout to his or her workplace to learn more about their job. Mr. O'Brien has been a sponsor in the past. At this year's banquet, Mr. Lynch will be a sponsor for a Scout interested in Engineering. ■

Partial Merit Badges

Let's try to finish up some of the partial merit badges from summer camp. Mrs. Regan has been helping out with the First Aid. Those who got a partial in Environmental Science should be talking to Mr. O'Brien soon!

Most Scouts have only a couple requirements left to complete the badge(s). It would be a shame to see all of the hard work that was done at summer camp go to waste. We should all make an extra effort to finish the badges. Scouts need to work on the requirements, and the leaders will do their best to help each of you. ■

First Class Cooking?

After recently taking a survey of some Scout handbooks, it became clear that a number of Scouts need to finish their First Class cooking requirements.

Some of these need to be done on a trip, you actually have to cook. But there is work that each of you can do before our next trip. One of the requirements is to plan the menu, make a shopping list, and price the ingredients for a patrol for a patrol for three meals. All of this can be (and should be) done before a camping trip. You can work on this at any time. Talk to any of the Leaders if you need these requirements. They can help you to get started. You can then cook on a trip to finish up. ■

Scoutmaster's Minute

"The Bridge Builder"

An old man traveling a long highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream held no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,
"You're wasting your time in building here.
"Your journey will end with the closing day;"
You never again will pass this way.
"You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
"Why build you this bridge at even tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he
said. "There followeth after me today,
"A youth whose feet must pass this way.
"This stream which has been as naught to me,
"To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
"He, too, must cross in the twilight dim--
"Good friend, I am building this bridge for
him."

Rifle Shooting Merit badge (again)

The dates for the next rifle shooting merit badge at the Danvers Fish & Game Club have been set. It will be held on March 4th and 11th.

This has been a popular class, many of our Scouts have gone through the program. The club has been running this course for several years now. There has been some discussion at the club as to how many more of these classes will be held. Nothing definite has been determined, but odds are this class will not run forever.

Contact Mr. Lynch if you are interested. ■

Month Events

Feb 8th
7:00 St. John's
Fencing Demo
Troop Meeting

Feb 11th
Brooksby Farm
Klondike Derby

Feb 15th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

Feb 22nd
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

March 3rd
7:00 Paul Lydon
Evening of swimming

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

www.119peabody.org

Fun and Games

Here is the answer to last month's puzzle:

3	9	6	2	1	8	4	7	5
4	1	5	9	7	3	6	2	8
8	7	2	6	5	4	9	3	1
5	3	1	7	2	6	8	4	9
6	4	7	1	8	9	3	5	2
2	8	9	3	4	5	1	6	7
9	2	4	8	6	7	5	1	3
7	5	3	4	9	1	2	8	6
1	6	8	5	3	2	7	9	4

