

SMOKE SIGNALS



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Allgash Canoe Trip



From July 24th to August 2nd, five Scouts and three adults took a 100 mile canoe trip on the Allgash Waterway in northern Maine. We all had a great time. Those on the trip were; Mr. O'Brien, Lynch and Regan., Patrick O., Kory, Patrick L., Cameron, and Andrew.

A more detailed write-up of the trip will be completed and posted on the web site under trip reports. Check soon for that.

Some of the highlights of the trip were seeing 15 moose and around 40 Bald Eagles. Watching an eagle make lazy circles in the sky right above your heads is quite a site, and one not likely to be forgotten. The wildlife and scenery was breathtaking. Finding two old steam locomotives in the middle of the woods was also quite a site.

On Monday, July 24th, we gathered at Brooksby Farm. After a final gear check, we jammed the gear and people into two vehicles and started on the long (long) ride to Maine. Of course, no trip to Maine would be complete without a stop at L.L. Bean in Freeport Maine. We picked-up some last minute supplies and were off again. We spent the first night at a small inn.

Next morning, we arrived at the Maine High Adventure base camp in Matagamon. A quick boat ride across the lake brought us to the base camp. Here we were introduced to our guide, Bryce. He was quite a character, a young Eagle Scout from northern Maine. At the base camp, we were issued our gear and food.

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Summer Camp

By Mr. Early

We had another good year at Storer this summer. We had to share the T Bird campsite with our arch rivals from Woburn, all went well though as the two troops came together as one. The boys worked hard and several Merit Badges were earned such as Swimming, Shotgun Shooting, Fishing, Wood Carving, & Basketry among others, congratulations to all the scouts.

The two troops did two site improvement projects. The first was done by the adult leaders of the two troops; they did an overhaul of the site message board. The message board was replaced and reframed, and the whole thing was decorated with hanging planters, and a Bowline Knot among other decorations. A picture of the completed project is on the troop web site.

The second project, completed by the scouts, was to clean out the fire pit and remove the large pile of old coals that had built-up over the years. This project was completed but lead to the one injury of the week, Kyle D picked a fight with a rake and lost resulting in a trip to the hospital (the time in the air conditioned waiting room was a nice break) and several stitches in his shin.



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Kory and the Scouts were instructed how to pack the food and kettle packs. Our gear was checked. What was not needed, was left in a locker. We then planned our trip with the chief guide. From here we took our swim tests and learned how to do a t-rescue. A short, but very buggy hike brought us to our campsite for the night. Here, we were introduced to “high adventure”, not “high vacation” as Bryce would often remind us.

Next morning, across the lake and into the van for a 3+ hour drive to the put-in spot. The gear was quickly unloaded from the van and we were off!

The first three days of the trip were spent traversing several very large lakes; Chamberlain, Eagle, and Churchill. We rigged a sail for the canoes using a large dining fly and a couple long spars that we carried just for that purpose. With the wind blowing in the right direction, we made great time across the lakes. Sure beat paddling the whole way. We also got a chance to portage; carry the canoes and gear around a small dam. Not nearly as much fun as it sounds.

After the lakes, we hit the river. Our first obstacle was about nine miles of Chase rapids. We practiced our whitewater skills before entering the rapids. A ranger took our gear about 4 miles downstream as the first part of the rapids are rather difficult with a canoe laden down with gear. After a few hair raising sections, we all made it through the rapids. We picked up the gear after the most treacherous part of the rapids and continued on. There were many small whitewater sections for the rest of the trip, so we had to always be aware of what was ahead.

Life on the river was a daily routine of breaking camp early, and paddling till sometime in the early afternoon. Once we stopped at our site for the night, the never-ending search for firewood began. Just when you think you have enough wood, go get more... Dinners were freeze-dried, and lunches were usually crushed.

Towards the end of the river, we came upon Allagash Falls. This is a 40-foot drop. The portage around this was about 1/3 of a mile. Quite a long walk carrying the gear and then the canoes. Some of the more adventurous in the group jumped into the river and floated down on their bottoms.

We exited the river at Allagash Village and were driven back to the base camp (another 3+ hour drive.) When the van dropped us off, we had to paddle about 1.5 miles across the lake to base camp. Due to the wind and whitecaps on the water, this was perhaps the most difficult paddling of the whole trip. We then unpacked, cleaned and returned the gear. Rather than stay the night, we decided to just drive home that day. ■

Merit Badges

As a Troop, we will be working on a couple merit badges over the next few weeks.

After spending a week at summer camp with the Troop from Woburn, Mr. O’Brien thought it would be a good idea to work on the Disabilities Awareness badge. We worked well with the boys and father from this troop who have special needs. It would be a good idea to learn more about how to work with persons with disabilities.

Secondly, Mr. Garbenis will be working on the plumbing merit badge. Every wonder why plumbing is spelled the way it is? Plumbum is the Latin name for the element of lead. As you will learn while working on the badge, lead is used in plumbing. ■

Phone Tree

To help with communication within the Troop, we will be working on a phone tree. There is no need for Mr. O’Brien to be making lots of phone calls. A lot of this will be up to the patrol leaders. So, everyone should check in with Mr. Lynch to make sure that the phone number(s) on file are correct. Do you have an e-mail address that gets checked often, maybe every day? That information should also be on record. ■

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Weather for the week was good with the exception of the last day when a severe thunder storm interrupted the camp wide games and cookout. The storm also resulted in a lighting strike in camp totally shattering a tree (pictures of the tree are also available on the web site), this resulted in a delayed departure the following day as the scouts all had to take their parents to see the shattered tree. ■

Eagle Court of Honor



Patrick O's Court of Honor will be held on Sunday October 22nd in the afternoon. We will let everyone know on the exact time.

Hopefully, everyone in the Troop can take part in the ceremony somehow. This is a once in a lifetime event for Patrick and his family. Let's try to make the most of it. All Scouts are expected to be in class A uniform. ■

News from the Pack

Mr. Lynch just returned from Camp Onway and the Arrow of Light weekend with four Webelos. Mr. and Mrs. McGinn did a great job organizing all of the food and gear. Patrick and Morris worked the weekend on AOL staff.

During the closing campfire program, members of the OA took part in a Vigil Honor tap-out ceremony. This was quite a special event.

The Pack is growing, with between 31 and 41 members. We will know the exact number after the first Pack meeting and the Den meetings have begun. We should be crossing four Webelos over in February. ■

Rob Anderson

Rob has turned 18 years old. He turned in his Eagle application before his birthday, so we should be hearing about his board of review soon. We all wish him good luck. ■

Scoutmaster's Minute

Have you ever tried to hammer in a bent nail? Even if you straighten it out before you try to reuse it, the nail still bends very easily. Only a new, straight nail will provide the best results. A carpenter starting a new project always starts with the best materials he can find—nails, tools and wood. In the hands of a skilled carpenter, these materials will be used to create a beautiful table or a cabinet. Remember the lesson from the carpenter; nothing beautiful can be carved from a rotten piece of wood.

Your character is the material you're using to build your life. Twenty years from now, you will begin to see the product you are building. The question to ask yourself is this: "Is the wood you're using now good wood or rotten wood?" ■

Venture Crew



Mr. O'Brien is starting a Venture Crew. This will give the older Scouts a chance to continue to participate in activities, even after they turn 18.

The Venture Crew can function as a patrol within the Troop. Scouts can be registered in both the Troop and Crew. There is not an additional registration fee. Venture Crews typically focus on high adventure trips such as backpacking, canoeing, etc... Scouts must be at least 14 years old to join the Crew. They can stay with the Crew as youth members until turning 21 years old.

More on this as we bring things together. ■

Month Events

October 4th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting
Plumbing

October 11th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting
Disabilities Awareness

October 18th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting
Plumbing

October 22nd
Afternoon St. John's
Eagle Court of Honor

October 25th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting
Plumbing

November 15th
Tentative Court of Honor

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

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