

# SMOKE SIGNALS



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## Smoke Signals is Back!

Well after a brief rest, Smoke Signals is back. We have found that this monthly publication was well-liked by Scouts and parents alike. Sending smoke Signals out every month was a good way to let everyone know the plans for the upcoming month.

So, why did it stop last year? Basically we were too ambitious in attempting to publish a four-page newsletter each month. As you can imagine, this took quite a bit of time to write all of the content. It was simply taking too much time each month to come up with new material beyond the normal calendar of events, etc...

Starting this month, Smoke Signals will once again be published each month, however the format has changed to two pages. If we have a lot of news, the format could be expanded. Hopefully this change in format will allow the leaders to faithfully publish each month.

Scouts are certainly encouraged to contribute at any time.

## Thank You Mr. O'Brien

After a tenure of almost eight years, Mr. O'Brien has stepped down as Scoutmaster. We would all like to thank him for his years of dedication to the Troop and the Scouts.

Mr. O'Brien has taken on the new position of Aquila District Committee Chairman. In this position, he will oversee all of the district committees; camping, advancement, training, etc... This will keep him very busy. So, his hands-on involvement with the Troop may be fairly limited.

Due to this change, the leadership of the Troop has moved around a little bit; Scoutmaster—Mr. Lynch, Assistant Scoutmaster—Mr. Early, Treasurer—Mr. Serre, Advancement Chairman—Mr. Harrington.

## Summer Camp Update

This year's Summer Camp at TL Storer was an interesting mix of fun and excitement. The weather was a factor for most of the week with daily rain and some severe weather mid week, but the scouts maintained high spirits, and by Friday the weather cleared for a great end of camp. We shared the site this year with a Troop from Hill, they seemed like a nice group but stayed mostly to themselves despite many invitations to join us around the campfire, although they did enjoy our Black Forest Brownies and Peach Cobbler.

The biggest story that the boys will be talking about for a while is how the Rowing MB class was interrupted by a "wall of water" coming off Goose Pond on Wednesday. Morris and his father braved the weather on Wednesday night to go to Wah-Tut-Ca to participate in the OA Brotherhood ceremony, congratulations to them both.

Matt successfully completed the Mile Swim, and Morris, and Joe, Completed the COPE course. Mr. Harrington proved to be an excellent marksman at the Scout Master Shoot (look out Mr. Lynch).



Troop 119  
Peabody MA  
www.119peabody.org

## Election Results

During our last meeting in June, we elected new leaders for the upcoming year. Other positions were filled by appointment. The new leadership positions are as follows:

Senior Patrol Leader—Morris  
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader—Jessie  
Patrol Leader—Joe  
Patrol Leader—Robbie  
Troop Guide—Patrick  
Instructor—Chris G.  
Chaplain Aid—Cameron

Let's all support these leaders in their new positions. We will be assigning the new patrols once the new year begins.

## PLC Meeting

We recently had a meeting of the PLC (Patrol Leader's Council.) At this meeting, the senior Scouts outlined a plan of events for the upcoming year. A vision for the year was discussed, and a series of meetings and activities were planned to fulfill this vision. As the plan continues to evolve, we will be sharing it with the rest of the troop. We have a list of rather exciting events planned. Stay tuned for details! As the year continues, we will be having monthly PLC meetings to continue with the planning process

## Uniforms

Recently the troop has gotten a little casual about wearing uniforms. We are after all a Boy Scout Troop, and boy Scouts wear uniforms. The uniform is our identity. Wearing uniforms promotes unity within the Troop.

So, we are asking that everyone make an effort to come to meetings in uniform.

## Upcoming Events

- **September 12-14**—Flags on the 48 camping trip and hike in the White Mountains. We will leave Friday night, and head north to the Dry river campground in the White Mountain National Forest. On Saturday, we will hike to the top of a 4,000 plus foot mountain to watch flags being raised in memory of the attacks on the World Trade Centers on 9/11. See [www.flagsonthe48.org](http://www.flagsonthe48.org) for more information. Stay tuned at the upcoming troop meetings for more details.
- **October 11 -13**—MassJam at the Barnstable Fairgrounds. This event happens every 4 years or so. During this weekend, the fairgrounds will be filled with almost 10,000 Scouts and leaders from throughout MA, NH, and surrounding states. Think of this as a mini-jamboree. We hope to have the WHOLE troop attend this event. For some of you, this may be your only chance to attend this event. Visit [www.massjam.org](http://www.massjam.org) for more info. We need a commitment by Sept 14th to make the final payment. We will be talking about this a lot during the upcoming troop meetings.

## Dues

Although dues may not be everyone's favorite topic, the troop depends on this money to operate. As in previous years, the dues will be \$60 for the year. You have the option to pay for the whole year up front, or make two payments. Mr. Serre has taken on the job of Treasurer, so please see him with your money.

## Philmont

While the Troop was at summer camp, Mr. Lynch and Patrick went to Philmont in New Mexico for an 11-day backpacking trip. During this trip, they covered close to 90 miles, climbed a 12,400 foot mountain, shot black powder rifles, and saw bear and deer. They hiked with Troop 19 from Middleton. Ask Patrick about it, and he will talk your ear off!

## Upcoming Events

**September 3**  
7:00 St. John's  
Lower Rectory  
Troop Meeting  
2008-2009 Kickoff

**September 10**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting  
Flags on the 48 planning

**September 12-14**  
Flags on the 48 Hike  
Camping  
White Mountains

**September 17**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting

**September 24**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting

**October 1**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting

**October 8**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting

**October 11-13**  
MassJam  
Barnstable Fair Grounds

**October 15**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting

**October 22**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting

**October 29**  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting

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

[www.119peabody.org](http://www.119peabody.org)

### Contact Information

(See Committee page on web site for full list)

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