

TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus
St. Gilbert Church



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Makajawan 2014 ... our Northwoods Adventure

By Pat Klemens - Scoutmaster

As has been our troop's decades long tradition, we headed to the Northwoods of Wisconsin for our summertime festival of Scouting at beautiful Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. This year, Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan itself celebrated 85 years of scouting magic on the shores of Lake Killian.

Our adventure began, as always, with a large gathering early on Sunday morning. Alex Tamulaitis agreed with his fellow senior Scouts that he would serve the troop as Senior Patrol Leader this week.

Although there was some nervous laughter (and genuine parental anxiety), the Scouts were excited to go. Gear was packed into the trailer (it looked more like a Mount Everest expedition than a week at scout camp), photos were taken, hugs were shared and, kaboom, we were on our way.

Well, not so fast. Our first stop was just over the Wisconsin state line to use the bathroom facilities. If we've learned anything, it's that Scouts have very small bladders at the beginning of a long trip. With our biologies satisfied, we were ready to cruise north for a few hours. Most Scouts slept, but some were either too excited, too stubborn or too social for shut-eye. As we drove past the world-famous Nueske's bacon shop, we stopped for lunch a few miles down the road.

Our travels to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan change year-by-year and we hadn't gone this particular route for a number of years. We knew there was a small rest area to use for lunch, but when we pulled in it was obvious that the place has been neglected for quite a while. Still, this was



our rendezvous point so we stopped: the flagpoles were still in place, but no flags proudly waved; the parking lot was still in place, but grass and weeds grew up between the widening cracks; there were no picnic tables, garbage cans, bathrooms or porta-potties. This was not the

best situation, but we're Scouts so we made the best of it. We didn't want to spend a long time eating lunch – and this situation made sure of it. Surprisingly, there were others in the wayside enjoying their lunch, too. Perhaps we all missed the same announcement...

We arrived at camp in time to select our tent sites and drop our gear. We gathered our volume of forms along with our towels and swimsuits to head to the East Camp office. We checked-in, had our personal medical file reviewed privately with a staff member then off to Aquatics for our swim checks.

Wow, there were a lot of Scouts at Aquatics waiting for their swim checks already. We got in line for what promised to be a long wait. Then, the sound of thunder was heard and all waterfront operations were halted. The requirement is to wait 30 minutes after the last sound or sighting of lightning. Oh no, we're really going to be here a long time now. But wait, some of the other troops in front of us decided to bail out. Suddenly, we found ourselves at the front of the line. Once the weather wait was over, we did our swim checks and were on our way. Pretty smooth for Troop 96.

Back at Iroquois campsite, our home away from home, we set about making camp. We only had a few minutes to work before it was time for our first flag assembly and dinner. But you know, Scouts can move in remarkably fast: drop the gear inside the tent, roll out a sleeping bag and *That's It. All done!*

Our first meal at the mess hall is designed to mess with your mind. We had turkey dinner with all the fixings. Some Scouts thought the whole week was gonna be like this. Nope, they're just messing with your mind. Monday's "breakfast bricks" would bring a bit of reality back into the picture. (*Editor's Note:* the Scouts were actually quite complimentary of the food this year.) Before bed, Alex held a "troop meeting" to review information he had about camp, safety procedures, programming options and more. We were ready for the week.

Monday dawned brightly, but with clouds on the horizon. Since this was our first-ever experience with the camp's new "block scheduling" system for merit badge classes, we anticipated some confusion about where to go in the morning. But our Scouts are wily: either they knew exactly where to go or they knew exactly when to look like they knew what they were doing. Actually, they really did know where to go as if they were grizzled, old veterans.

In the middle of the morning, the showers came but they couldn't dampen our enthusiasm. Good thing, because it rained off and on for the next 48 hours or so.

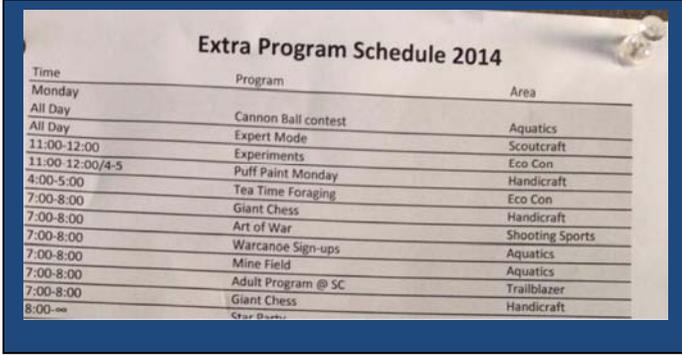
As the week progressed, we got into a pattern: Up early, flag raising and messages in Iroquois, walk to East Camp assembly, raise the flag, eat breakfast, go to Program Areas, return to Iroquois at noon, rest, eat lunch, go to Program Areas in the afternoon, return to Iroquois, lower the flag and get "news from the outside world," walk to East Camp assembly, lower the flag, eat dinner, go to Program Areas, return to Iroquois, then campfire or cards in camp, brush teeth, go to bed. Repeat.



On Wednesday, our troop took the first opportunity to raise the flag in front of all other troops and staff. The flag team consisted of Nathan

Cibula, William DeKeyser, Kevin Goger, Matthew Symonds. They looked sharp and did an excellent job, setting a high bar for the other troops to follow. You can see them in the photo about to hoist the flag.

This year, by offering the merit badge and Trailblazer programs in the block scheduling, it allowed for our Scouts to take greater advantage of the other great programming that the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan staff offers. In the past, it was harder to go to the extra offerings, but this year, our Scouts really joined in. Here's a snapshot of just some of the additional things they could do:



Time	Program	Area
Monday		
All Day	Cannon Ball contest	Aquatics
All Day	Expert Mode	Scoutcraft
11:00-12:00	Experiments	Eco Con
11:00-12:00/4-5	Puff Paint Monday	Handicraft
4:00-5:00	Tea Time Foraging	Eco Con
7:00-8:00	Giant Chess	Handicraft
7:00-8:00	Art of War	Shooting Sports
7:00-8:00	Warcanoe Sign-ups	Aquatics
7:00-8:00	Mine Field	Aquatics
7:00-8:00	Adult Program @ SC	Trailblazer
7:00-8:00	Giant Chess	Handicraft
8:00--	Clear Dishes	Handicraft

Of course, every year, one of the challenges every Scout (and dare I say it, every adult) must handle is homesickness. While this year was no exception, there must have been some special immunity this year as our problems were minor and isolated. Congrats to the parents who prepared their Scouts for a week at camp, too. We were spared any severe cases and none were contagious!

As the week started to wind down to the finish, we had an influx of new faces into camp. The big celebration of the 85th anniversary was going to be our Friday in camp. Staffers and campers from years gone by started to arrive and fill up the place. Also, because Friday night is always the big Order of the Arrow fire and induction ceremony, many more people were arriving to take part or watch. Within Iroquois, we grew from a population of 35 to about 65!

Mr. Wehde and Mr. Timmins, along with Bryan and Nathan arrived to finalize their design for three new benches around the Iroquois campfire site. Much effort was made to measure, re-locate the fire ring a few feet, re-orient the “compass rocks,” measure, dig exceedingly deep post hole, cement the posts, measure, attach the benchseats and marvel at the outcome.



This year we had seven Scouts and six adults gain admission to the Order of the Arrow*. On Friday evening, at the impressive OA Callout Ceremony, the following Scouts and

adults began their Ordeal: Ethan Blenniss, Fritz Klett, Nick Knight, Zach Levy, Alex Kuscik, Chris Matthews, Ryan Robb, Mr. Joe Matthews, Mr. Craig Levy, Mr. Dave Sislow, Mr. Matthew Symonds, Mrs. Cheri Blenniss and Mr. Vyt Tamulaitis. Please congratulate them when you see them. They were fully inducted into the Order of the Arrow during ceremonies held on Saturday night.

We also had thirteen current members of the Order of the Arrow decide to take the next step and seal their membership by becoming Brotherhood members. These individuals self-elected to go to the next step. They studied the traditions and purpose of the OA, then submitted to another day of service working alongside the Ordeal candidates. Their names will be posted on our website shortly.



Finally, in closing the OA story, I guess I have to report that both Kevin Wehde and “yours truly” were selected for the Vigil Honor this year. There were 19 youth and adults selected in our Council this year. We completed our Vigil on Friday night and returned to the troop on Saturday morning. The Vigil ceremony is very special, perhaps even spiritual. I hope many Arrowmen in our troop are able to experience this as well.

** The **Order of the Arrow (OA)** is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). It uses American Indian-styled traditions and ceremonies to bestow recognition on scouts selected by their peers as best exemplifying the ideals of Scouting. The society was created in 1915 as a means of reinforcing the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The goal was to establish these as lifelong guidelines, and to encourage continued participation in Scouting and camping. Inducted members, known as Arrowmen or Brothers, are organized into local youth-led lodges that harbor fellowship, promote camping, and render service to their communities. Members wear identifying insignia on their uniforms, most notably the OA pocket flap and the OA sash (worn at official OA functions).*

Normally, our week at camp ends on Saturday. However, this year, due to the number of scouts and adults completing their OA Ordeal on Saturday, we were not able to get everyone home until Sunday. Oh no, we get to spend another day at camp doing everything fun! All the Program Areas were open, so our Scouts generally had free run of everything after all other troops left for home. It was a great day, even though the rain returned about 4 pm. After dinner, most Scouts worked on packing up for the drive home on Sunday while another large group participated in the Order of the Arrow activities.

By Sunday morning, everyone was ready to go. Those who were staying for the second week were ready to see the first week-ers depart. Other second week-ers were just leaving Grayslake for their drive up. Somewhere, we passed each other.

We put Week One into the books successfully and handed over the fun to Mr. Klett as Scoutmaster, Mr. Nitto, Mr. Levy and Mr. Borovka.

Week One Scout participants:

Jacob Stutzman	Nathan Stutzman	Joshua Ball	Cameron Duffy
Matthew D'Souza	Cameron Beard	Alex Kagay	Colin Jones
Mark Guckenberger	Wilson Hines	Richard Wegner	Michael Wentz
Alex Tamulaitis	Joe Tamulaitis	David Powers	Justin Jones
Matthew Symonds	Thomas Hinckley	Ethan Blenniss	Mitchell Garcia
William DeKeyser	Ryan McLenithan	Edgar Arenas	Matthew Powers
Andrew Oelschlager	Conner Harris	Luke Symonds	Kevin Goger

Week One Adults:

Dave Cibula	Vyt Tamulaitis	John Powers	Kevin Mack
Pat Klemens			

Special thanks to John McCall and the McLenithans for driving Scouts to camp.

Also, it would be very unfair not to mention the yeoman's effort demonstrated by Mr. David Cibula this year. He worked countless hours to ensure that our troop had every form, record, fee or on-line entry completed. As a result, our Scouts were never delayed or prevented from full participation in all of MaKaJaWan's activities. Thank you!

I know that the Scouts had fun during the second week of MaKaJaWan, but I don't have all the details for this report. We hope to provide a full article about their adventures soon.

Camping Plan Schedule

- - August 8-10: Camping at Lewis University Airport. Activity is the first-ever Air Fest 2014
- - September 19th-21st: Shooting Sports at Bristol, Wisconsin
- - October 17th-19th : Back country camping, cycling Channahon State Park, Channahon, IL
- -November 15th-17th: Webelos Invitational, Camp OhDaKoTa, Burlington, WI

Like Scouting?

If you enjoy scouting, if you have fun, if it helps make you a better person, then share scouting with your friends and family. Speak positively about how scouting is fun, builds character and makes you a better citizen.

Local scouting units, especially Cub Scout units are in need of new members.

Share the fun and encourage those who would benefit to visit a Pack or Troop. It will strengthen your community.

Philmont 2015

Three Philmont crews have been formed and trek dates selected. Attending crew meetings to develop your crew are as important as being fit for the trek itself, or having the right gear. Crews should also be working together to develop fund raising opportunities, successful fundraising will help ease some of the financial burden.



Only one spot is still available so if any qualified scout would like to join the crews please have them contact Mr. McCall as soon as possible. A \$100 deposit will secure your spot.

The deadline for the next payment of \$500/participant is September 1st Payments are due to Council and Philmont early in September please do not be late with your payment. Mr McCall will accept payments on your account at any time prior to the due date. So if it would be easier to make smaller more frequent payments please do so and see Mr. McCall.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 6:00PM all are encouraged as often as possible to participate in the regularly scheduled hike around Rollins Savannah. Meet at the Washington ST entrance. Cycling is also an option at 8:30AM on Saturday mornings, same place.

Crew members should be preparing by making regular hikes and setting some goals such as hiking the Rollins Savannah 3 mile trail with a 10 lb pack by September or October. Knowing where you are in your training is important so you know how far you have to go to be fully prepared.

Mr. Wehde has provided some helpful articles on hiking boots, hiking boot lacing techniques and backpack selection. They are posted in the documents section of the Troop web site. We encourage all participants to become familiar with them.

Here are some links to follow as you prepare for your Philmont adventure.

For a starting point on what to bring: (Work with your crew to decide what is best for you)

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/Hikers/WhattoBring.aspx>

For Wilderness Preservation:

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/wilderness.aspx>

For a description of Philmont Trek Itineraries:

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/TrekPlanning/PhilmontItineraries.aspx>



August 2013 Campout

But our August Campout will be a new one for Troop 96. We will be attending the first annual Scout AirFest at the Lewis University Airport near Romeoville, IL. The campout will be August 8th – 10th and we will be camping on the on the airport grounds.

This event should be amazing. There will be thousands of scouts from across the Midwest in attendance. **Registration is now closed.**



Troop Activity Calendar

August 4th – Jones Island

- AirFest Campout Prep
- Troop Catamaran will be at meeting

August 11th – Jones Island

- Troop Catamaran at meeting

August 18th – Chapel

- Gun Safety Skill session by Mr. Wehde or and Mr. Maus
- If time left over – Tug of War outside

August 25th – Chapel

- Court of Honor
- OA in charge of setup and takedown (Wear Sashes)
- Need an emcee for the ceremony

September 1st – Chapel Outdoors – Labor Day

- Class B
- Bike Safety/Bike Rodeo (To be set up before meeting by Spencer B., Nick G., and Kevin G.)
- Anyone brings snacks to be shared after bike rodeo

Troop Court of Honor on Aug 25

The Troop 96 Fall Court Of Honor is scheduled for Monday August 25 at 7:00 PM. The event will be at the St. Gilbert Chapel in the lower level the Chapel Hall. Our Troop Court of Honor is a celebration of the Scout's accomplishments. We hope you can be there to join in the fun and show the Scouts your support. Families and friends are invited to attend. There will be refreshments after the ceremonies.



the Scoutmaster's Corner
by Pat Klemens

MaKaJaWan was very successful. We saw 48 Scouts and 10 adults attend a full week at camp and another 25 or so attend the OA Weekend. All in all this represents a very successful long-term camping program this summer. A special thanks to everyone who made our Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan experience awesome, especially Mr. David Cibula who worked countless hours to ensure that every email, text message, phone call, form, record, fee, on-line entry was 100% answered, completed or submitted. Well done and thanks!

This month's camping is the weekend of **August 8-10 at Lewis University for Airfest 2014**. This is the Rainbow Area Council's first-ever Mega-event and we're looking forward to it. Let's hope for great flying weather!

Our schedule for **upcoming monthly campouts** is as follows:

August 8-10	Airfest 2014 at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL
September 19-21	Camping at Van Patten Woods near Russell, IL. Activity is Shooting Sports at Bristol Range.
October 17-19	Camping at Channahon State Park on Friday, McKinley Woods on Saturday. Activities include bike-packing, backpacking & a Civil War Re-enactment.
November 14-16	Camping at Oh-Da-Ko-Ta Scout Camp near Burlington, WI. This is our annual Wild Webelos Weekend, an invitational campout for area Webelos to see how Troop 96 camps.
December	No Camping

Back in March, the troop elected the 2014 members of the **Order of the Arrow** by secret ballot. At MaKaJaWan this July, we saw seven Scouts and six adults (!) get called out (Ethan Blenniss, Fritz Klett, Nick Knight, Zach Levy, Alex Kuscik, Chris Matthews, Ryan Robb, Mr. Joe Matthews, Mr. Craig Levy, Mr. Dave Sislow, Mr. Matthew Symonds, Mrs. Cheri Blenniss and Mr. Vyt Tamulaitis). They completed their ordeal on Saturday and were inducted during ceremonies that evening. Separately, thirteen others sealed their membership in OA at the Brotherhood Level.

David Hoffman, Andrew Goger, Christian Mack and Owen Schwab attended our Council's National Youth Leadership Training course for a week at MaKaJaWan. They will be working on their "personal vision" in order to complete the course.

Check out the Troop Website anytime to get the latest troop information.



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Call before 9 pm

e-mail

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