

# TROOP 96 GAZETTE

**Knights of Columbus  
St. Gilbert Church**



**Grayslake, Illinois**

Volume 22, Number 5

<http://www.boy Scouttroop96.com>

May 2014

## *The Long Long Long Hike*

By John McCall

The April campout was planned to be a caving event at the Maquoketta Caves State Park in Maquoketta, Iowa. However, as has so often been the case the last few months, the winter weather caused a change in plans. The Iowa park decided to remain closed an extra week so that the bats that inhabit the caves would have more time to recover from the difficult winter.



On to plan "B" since we already had a reservation to camp at Mississippi Palisades State Park in Illinois that's where we headed. The new plan was to hike the trails and work on basic scouting skills that didn't get fully covered at the March campout.

On Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> scouts leaders and parents began to assemble at the St Gilbert parking lot around 5:30PM the weather was actually very nice, a pleasant change from cold and snow. The forecast for the weekend was for mild temperatures with an always present threat of rain. So with everyone assembled our new senior patrol leader Nick G. had the scouts into patrol lines and made sure the scouts were ready for the campout, equipped with water bottles, rain gear and proper footwear. The trailer was packed and driving assignments were read off. Scouts boarded their assigned vehicles and shortly after 6PM it was wagons west. Depending on the route taken the journey wound its way through Crystal Lake, Marengo, Belvidere, past the giant Chrysler plant, the Byron Nuclear power plant, and all the little towns on route 64 as it heads to the Mississippi River. About the time it had really turned dark, after a few refrains of "are we there yet", we had reached the river and turned North just past the town of Savanah, Illinois we first went by the south entrance of the state park and then turned into the north entrance. We had arrived at Mississippi Palisades. Now where is the campsite? Well the park has 2500 acres and 241 campsites we parked and waited at a lot near the entrance and after only a few minutes exploring found Mr. Matthews directing us to campsites 23, 24, 25 and 26. Once Mr. Ostick arrived with the trailer arrived scouts began unpacking and setting up dining flies, kitchens and tents the threat of rain was still only a threat so it was nice setting up in dry conditions, but the site was on a hill so finding a good flat place to set the fly and then orienting it so as not to catch the wind was a bit of a challenge. With a good number of new scouts some who had not camped with us before it was a while before set up was completed and

cracker barrel served. It wasn't till almost 11PM that the PLC was held to discuss the weekend's activities.

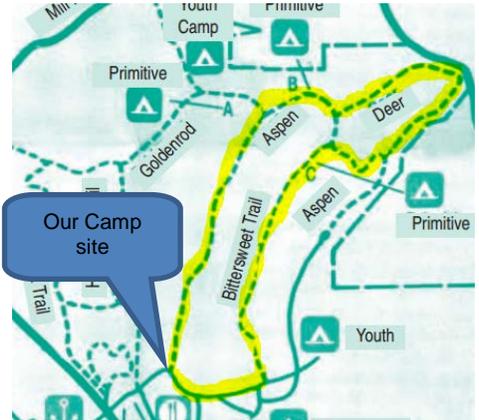
Because of the late hour the PLC decided we should sleep in till 7AM, have breakfast and KP completed, have opening flags and be ready to hike by 10AM, followed by lunch back at camp and an afternoon of scout skills and an extended game of capture the flag. That would allow a good amount of time for preparing dinner before the evening campfire. Off to our tents for what would turn out to be a short sleep, punctuated by some very long train whistles. Traffic along the Mississippi not only travels by water it also travels by train.

This being April the sun has begun to rise earlier and earlier, just before sunrise the birds begin to chirp like natures alarm clock. That is followed by daylight which brings out the louder chirping of young scouts who probably didn't get the 7AM wake message so it isn't long after 6:15am that even most of the adults are up and beginning to prepare breakfast. Breakfasts of pancakes, french toast, sausage, sausage links dipped in pancake batter cooked like a corn dog, bacon and various egg dishes were prepared and consumed during which the threat of rain stopped being a threat and a very short but thoroughly soaking rain fell and caused some delays and concern about what the remainder of the day would be like. Eventually the skies cleared and the campsite was eventually ready for us to begin the day's plan. The funny thing is even though we got a much earlier start flags were held pretty close to 10am. Like most projects the task will fill the time and budget available and sometimes more.

The troop assembled and opening flags were held, Nick G. explained the plan for the day and scouts were



instructed to be sure to bring water bottles and rain gear just in case. Carrying rain gear is the premium you pay to insure clear skies. We regathered at the trail head of the Aspen Trail and after a toast to start the hike we started up the hill and continued up the hill did I tell you it was up hill well it was. Since the hike started by going up hill surely the route back would include a good deal of down hill maybe? Upon reaching the top of the hill where the Aspen trail intersects the Deer trail we decided that we would continue on the Deer trail to add some more distance to our hike. The Deer trail brought us close to the road where we encountered another scout group that was on a Philmont training hike, so far not much downhill yet. Continuing to follow the Deer trail eventually it brought us to the Bittersweet trail and we were finally heading down hill at least a little. At the end of the trail



**Hiking**

	DISTANCE <b>3.31 miles</b>		DURATION <b>1:20:12</b>
	AVG. SPEED <b>2.5 mph</b>		MAX. SPEED <b>7.5 mph</b>
	CALORIES <b>1198 kcal</b>		HYDRATION <b>16.2 fl. oz</b> +
	AVG. HEART RATE <b>- bpm</b>		MAX. HEART RATE <b>- bpm</b>
	MIN. ALTITUDE <b>579 ft</b>		MAX. ALTITUDE <b>1282 ft</b>
	TOTAL ASCENT <b>1090 ft</b>		TOTAL DESCENT <b>1172 ft</b>



the last few hundred feet dropped about 40 ft as it reached the camp road which would take us back to camp, I was happy to have my trekking poles they always make severe down hill trails much easier to navigate. By the time we reached camp it was just after noon and most of us were out of water and ready for a siesta. But it was time to get lunches prepared, scouts and adults though tired and hungry put together just what we needed to recover.

The afternoon was devoted to scout skills, fire building, wood tools and knots for a few hours capped by what I've been told was an exciting game of capture the flag.

Scouts began preparing dinner about 4:30PM, pizza, pasta, meat loaf, beef brisket and matzo soup were cooked and enjoyed. KP was a little more challenging and it wasn't till almost 9PM that we were ready for the evening campfire.

Skits were performed; some really good and new ones from the new scout patrols including a story by Cameron D. were very enjoyable. The campfire concluded with a round of Rose, Bud and Thorn where scouts mention what they liked most, were looking forward to and what they liked least.

Heading back our tents for our first good night's sleep the threat of rain was still ever present and was soon going to raise quite a stir. Word has it that conditions back home were not so nice, rain and hail somehow had by passed us and dumped on Grayslake. Sometime around 1:30AM or so the wind was gusting and anything not tied down began to blow about, the rain was falling quite hard and I was glad to be in my tent and not out getting wet. Then came the hail though it didn't bring down any tents that I know of, but the driving nature of the rain had gotten things wet in a few tents and shaken some of the scouts enough that once it settled enough I thought I heard voices so I decided to get up and check on scouts I found three or four scouts had taken shelter under the adult dining fly along with about three adults. Scouter Mike G. was keeping an eye on the weather radar and for a while it looked like we were in for another front about to pass over us. If the storm continued on it's current path we would be getting scouts to the safety of our vehicles if and when we determined that the front was upon us. Then a few minutes later the radar refreshed and we realized what we had been expecting was really what we had just passed over and delivered the wind and hail. Behind that was mostly clear and the immediate threat was over. So scouts were sent back to their tents and remainder of the night was uneventful. The sun rose once again the birds chirped, and train whistle blew Sunday morning was upon us. Scouts were up early as planned this morning, the goal was to have breakfast, KP, cleanup and break camp by 9:30AM.

Scout breakfasts on Sunday were eggs, sausage, cheese and bagles, scrambled eggs and bacon, mountain man and breakfast burritos. Some challenges were encountered including when cooking mountain man it is always better to cook the meat then the eggs because if you add the uncooked meat to the egg mixture it will never cook. Live and learn. Things were moving slow as they often do on Sunday, so it wasn't till almost 10AM before scouts had the camp struck and the trailer loaded for the trip home. Getting on the road a 10 AM would mean that it would be back in Grayslake about 1PM. After a few short showers along the way we made it back to St. Gilbert all intact and unloaded the trailer, sent gear home to be cleaned and dried and look forward to next month.

Scouts participating in the April Campout:

Matthew Dsouza	Ethan Bryant	Nick Knight	Thomas Hinkley
Nick Grezsik	Ethan Blenniss	Alex Kagay	Ryan McLenithan
Zach Levy	Edgar Arenas	Kevin Goger	Eric Ostick
Andrew Goger	Connor Harris	Charlie Arkenburg	Joe Tamulaitus
Wilson Hines	Spencer Boos	Justin Jones	
Collin Jones	Cameron Beard	Cameron Duffy	

Adults Participating in the March Campout:

John McCall	Dan Ostick	Kevin Mack
Mike Grezsik	Craig Levy	Vyt Tamulaitus
Joe Matthews	Gerry Dsouza	John Boos*

\* one night of camping

### May 2013 Campout

In May, our drive will be short. We will be camping at Camp Crown near Trevor, Wisconsin. Our activity on Saturday will be to head south back to Illinois to JCYS's Camp Henry Horner near Volo for four hours of fun on their ropes course. It is sure to be a Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE). Facilitators tailor the program based on the needs, goals and abilities of your team to foster communication, cooperation, problem-solving skills, and teamwork and camaraderie. We will end the day with astronomy activities.

- Cost is \$20/Scout, plus the regular \$15 for food. Plan to be there on May 16-16. Your permission slip & food money are due at the May 12<sup>th</sup> troop meeting.



### ***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.

## Camping Plan Schedule

- - May 16-17: Camp Crown Activity is Cope at Astronomy w/ Shelter Building
  - - June 20-22: Potato Creek State Park in Indiana Activity is White Water Rafting in South Bend
  - - July 6-12 and 13-19 Weeks One and Two at Summer Camp at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation near Pearson, WI
  - - August 8-10: Camping at Lewis University Airport. Activity is the first-ever Air Fest 2014
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## Troop Activity Calendar

- Monday May 12: 7PM  
Troop Meeting, Campout Prep
  - Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30PM – Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>:  
Troop Campout Camp Crown, Ropes Course at Camp Henry Horner
  - Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>: 7PM  
Spring Court of Honor
  - Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>: 7PM  
Troop Meeting
  - Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>: 7PM  
Troop Meeting
  - Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>: 7PM  
Troop Meeting
  - Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>: 7PM  
Troop Meeting
  - Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> 5:30PM – Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>:  
Troop Campout Poatao Creek Indiana, White Water Rafting South Bend, Indiana
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Check out the Recap of the Annual Planning meeting on the Troop Website  
We have a great plan for the next 15 months of scouting

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### Philmont 2015

Three crews have been formed, deposits placed and preparations can begin. Only one or two openings remain so if you want to go, let Mr. McCall know as soon as possible. Remaining payments are \$500 Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, \$500 Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and Est \$300 Balance April 15<sup>th</sup> 2015.



the Scoutmaster's Corner  
by Pat Klemens

- For the **May campout**, we'll be heading to Camp Crown near Wilmot, WI for two nights under the stars. On Saturday, we'll drive to Camp Henry Horner for a fun day on their Ropes Course. We'll bring our lunches and enjoy four hours of guided challenges on the ropes. Cost is \$20/Scout, plus the regular \$15 for food. Plan to be there on May 16-16. Your permission slip & food money are due at the May 12<sup>th</sup> troop meeting.
- The PLC selected the top three **T-shirt designs** at the April PLC. The troop will vote on May 5 to choose the #1 design. The Scout who submitted #1 will get a free shirt with his design. We'll start taking clothing orders in May and have the t-shirts available for Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan.
- Troop 96 has filled two crews of twelve to go to the mountains of New Mexico and Scouting's **Philmont Scout Ranch in 2015**. We are very close to filling a third crew. If you are interested in attending, contact Mr. McCall ASAP.
- Thanks to Mr. Lewitzke and Mr. Powers for organizing our recent **Youth Protection Training** for our Scouts held on April 14. Any adult participating in a campout must be Youth Protection Trained (as are all registered adults).
- Christian Mack and Nathan Cibula were recognized at their **Eagle Courts of Honor** recently. An Eagle Court of Honor is a special event in our troop and all who attend can't help but be inspired and motivated to do their best along their own Trail to Eagle.
- On April 17, we helped St. Gilbert by lighting their procession after services in the church on **Holy Thursday**. Thanks to everyone who participated.
- Our **18<sup>th</sup> annual Spaghetti Dinner** was held on May 3 at Westlake Academy. Although the final numbers aren't in yet, we are celebrating another very successful event. Special thanks to Mr. Dan Ostick who has headed up this event for the last several years. Preliminary numbers: \$4300 profit to the troop, more than \$700 to Scout accounts and about 250 meals served.
- Our **Parent's Meeting for Scouts heading to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan** was well attended on Sunday evening. Watch the troop website or speak with Mr. Cibula to get the info you need to make Summer Camp a success for your son.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Calling all Arrowmen of Troop 96!** The next meeting of all Order of the Arrow members will be held on May 21 at the Symond's Building on Rt 120. Plans will include organizing a troop Food Drive to help the Avon and StG Pantries.
  - There were 21(!) members of the Troop's **Patrol Leaders Council** at Troop Leadership Training on May 4. We reviewed some key leadership principles for managing a group's performance, talked about Setting the Example and ended with a session regarding troop gear handling by Mr. Timmins. The following Scouts are now trained to hold their positions for the next six months: Nick Borovka, Christian Mack, David Hoffman, Ethan Blenniss, Cameron Beard, Brandon Nitto, Zach Levy, Andrew Goger, Alex Tamulaitis, Nathan Cibula, Nick Grzesik, Kyle Judge, Fritz Klett, Ethan DeKeyser, Matt Symonds, Kevin Goger, Conner Harris, Joe Tamulaitis, Charlie Arkenberg, Wilson Hines, and Alex Kucsic.
  - The **Troop Committee** will meet Thursday, May 8 at 7 pm at the GL Library. If your son has just joined our troop, consider coming to this meeting to see how the troop operates and get involved. This is your invitation to be a part of your son's Scouting program.
  - Our next regular **Court of Honor will be held on May 19**. For all Scouts who are close to completing their next rank or next Merit Badge, now it the time to "get 'er done." All families are encouraged to attend this special meeting and see our Scouts recognized for their efforts!
  - The **May PLC** will be held on Tuesday, May 27 from 7-8:30 PM.
  - While all of our service projects are important, one of the more meaningful projects will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Please join us at 9 am at the Avon Cemetery (on Drury Lane, just east of Route 83) to **place American Flags on the graves** of our military personnel who gave so much to our country. In my opinion, it is the way to observe the Memorial Day weekend. You will be inspired!
  - The PLC decided to hold a special meeting on Memorial Day rather than a typical Monday troop. We will meet for a **picnic and games** at Jones Island (at the corner of Harvey Ave and Alleghany Road on the northwest corner of Gray's Lake at 6:30 pm. We will also conduct limited "swim tests" before we go whitewater rafting in June. More details will be on the website soon, but mark your calendar now so you don't go to StG on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Do you have a friend** that you'd like to have in the troop? Tell him about our troop, show him our 2013 video on YouTube (on our website) and offer to pick him up and bring him to a meeting. Let your friends share in our fun!
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	<b>Troop 96 Committee</b>	Call before 9 pm	<i>e-mail</i>
<b>Jane Bryant-Klett</b>	<b>Committee Chairman</b>	847-494-4850	<a href="mailto:Jane.bryant@abbott.com">Jane.bryant@abbott.com</a>
<b>Kevin Rupprecht</b>	<b>Chartered Org. Rep</b>	847-855-9173	<a href="mailto:Kevin.rupprecht@abbott.com">Kevin.rupprecht@abbott.com</a>
Cete Rupprecht	St Gilbert / Recharter Rep	847-855-9173	chutch@oakton.edu
James Busch	Treasurer	847-707-2854	16116fabfour@sbcglobal.net
Sherry Judge	Advancement Coordinator	847-548-2048	judges@ameritech.net
Vyt Tamulaitis	Transportation Coord	847-223-0466	vtamulaitis@hotmail.com
Jaime Reyes	Finance Coordinator	757-9660	jeppity@gmail.com
Dawn Wegner	Popcorn Kernel	847-986-4206	dawnwegner@yahoo.com
Sharon Mack	Religious Award Coord Cath.		slmack2@yahoo.com
Donna Stutzman	Religious Award Coord Luthern		stutz24@comcast.net
Greg Goger	Committee Member	847-855-1704	ndgoger@sbcglobal.net
Doug DeKeyser	Committee Member	847-548-8818	Doug_kekeyser@yahoo.com
Tom Robb	Committee Member	847-223-5781	marathon220@comcast.net
Pat Shurtliff	Committee Member	847-543-1954	socrfmyl@comcast.net
Craig Vogel	Committee Member	847-223-5469	Cjvogel1@att.net
Stacy Wehde	Committee Member	847-219-7794	kwehde@sbcglobal.net
Frank & Karen White	Committee Member	847-223-1138	whitefktm@aol.com
Chris Borovka	Committee Member	847-367-8041	cborovka@yahoo.com
Patrick Schwab	Committee Member	224-829-8230	pschwab517@gmail.com
Cheri Blennis	Committee Member	847-942-1804	cheri@blenniss.com

**Troop 96 Program Staff**

Call before 9 pm

*e-mail*

<b>Pat Klemens</b>	<b>Scoutmaster</b>	847-223-5490	Onmyhonor@ameritech.net
John Boos	Asst SM-Memorial Day Coord	847-219-1189	Xr42il93@gmail.com
Steve Cambio	Asst SM	847-340-3309	Stevecamz5@yahoo.com
Michael Hoffman	Asst SM -Training Coordinator	847-772-5085	Mikebeckyhoffman @att.net
Dave Jacks	Asst SM - Eagle Guide	847-999-8328	davidmjacks@comcast.net
Peter Klett	Asst SM	224-545-6555	Pjk3@ntrs.com
Kevin Mack	Asst SM - New Scouts	847-340-4286	Krmack1.96@gmail.com
Joe Mathews	Asst SM- Camping Coordinator	847-921-5444	matthewsjoseph83@yahoo.com
John McCall	Asst SM - Communications	847-223-5470	jmccall@optiminc.com
Dan Ostick	Asst SM - Spaghetti Dinner	847-989-7043	danost@gate.net
Dave Sislow	Asst SM	847-830-1803	d.sislow@sbcglobal.com
Scott Timmins	AsstSM- Quartermaster	847-223-1436	Stimmins@nvidia.com
Kevin Wehde	Asst SM- Eagle Guide	847-275-9974	Kevin.wehde@kraftfoods.com
Todd Nitto	Asst SM	847-543-1744	Girn2001@gmail.com
Mike Grzesik	Asst SM	847-231-4834	mtgrzesik@yahoo.com
Joe Judge	Asst SM	847-548-2048	Joe.judge@ameritech.net
Craig Levy	Asst SM	847-543-1835	Craig.Levy@gmail.com
Dave Cibula	Asst SM	636- 222-2044	David@cibula.name

## BSA TROOP 96 PERMISSION SLIP– May Campout

**SIGNED PERMISSION SLIPS DUE:** Monday, May 12, 2014

**EVENT DATES:** Friday, May 16 to Sunday, May 18, 2014

**EVENT LOCATION:** Camping at Camp Crown near Wilmot, WI; activity at Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside, IL: Ropes Challenge Course

**Meeting time:** 5:30 PM on Friday, May 16– St. Gilbert Parking Lot

**RETURN:** approx 12:30 PM, Sunday, Apr 13 (Call 847-223-7233 after 9AM for a better estimate)

**EVENT COST:** \$15 for food + \$20 for ropes course. Payable in cash on May 12 troop meeting.

**UNIFORM / CLOTHING:** CLASS A UNIFORM for traveling

**TRANSPORTATION:** Adult leaders/parent will provide transportation.

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## BSA TROOP 96 PERMISSION SLIP – May Campout

**EVENT DATES:** Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18, 2014

**EVENT LOCATION:** Camping at Camp Crown; ropes course at Camp Henry Horner on Sat.

**DEPART:** 5:30 pm Friday evening – StG parking lot

SCOUT(S) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission for full participation in BSA programs, subject to the limitations noted herein. I further agree that Troop 96 and its Junior and Adult Leaders, as well as the St. Gilbert Church and the Knights of Columbus shall be held free from liability, financially or otherwise, for any injury or accident incurred by my son during this event. I have also included a separate sheet with any special instructions regarding my son.

In case of emergency, I understand every effort will be made to contact me (or someone else if noted on this form). In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel selected by the adult leader in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child.

Parent (Guardian) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **Can Drive?: Y / N**

Parent phone number in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other important information in an emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS: ONLY PARENTS OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS CAN PICK UP YOUR SCOUT.**

**IF ANYONE ELSE IS TO BRING YOUR SON HOME YOU MUST PROVIDE THAT AUTHORIZATION BELOW:**

(NAME) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_ IS AUTHORIZED TO PICK UP MY SCOUT

AT THE CHURCH (PARENT SIGNATURE) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_