

# TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus  
St. Gilbert Church



Grayslake, Illinois

Volume 20, Number 11

<http://www.boyscouttroop96.com>

November 2012

## October Camping: Shock and Awe

by Pat Klemens

Cold, wet, windy and grey. Clear, bright, sunny and warm. Cold, wet, windy and grey. Our camping weekend was an Oreo cookie of great weather sandwiched in between some really nasty conditions. This is what we regularly enjoy and have come to call *Troop 96 Weather*.

We arrived in the parking lot Friday evening ready to head to Camp Crown for a weekend of camping, shooting sports and *Jamboree on the Air*. Three Scout patrols and one adult patrol made the trip over the Cheddar Curtain into Wisconsin. Once on site, the road to the south campsite was a quagmire of mud and puddles. This week's rain had turned the road to mush. We got in...but would we get out?

Fortunately, the campsite was dry. We set up our troop gear (dining flies, kitchens, lanterns and picnic tables) before we set up our personal gear. Soon enough, we had a proper Scout camp and were ready for cracker-barrel. The lights went out and all was quiet by 10:30 to ensure a good night sleep in the woods. Did you hear the coyotes or sandhill cranes?

Saturday morning the Scouts were somewhat slow to get their breakfasts prepared. We saw the patrols fixing up French Toast and bacon, pancakes and bacon as well as Dutch Oven full of a hearty Mountain Man. Whew, we do eat well. We were "fueled up" for a big day.



Spencer B, our SPL for the weekend, gathered everyone together for a few quick messages before the Scouts and most of the adults headed east to the Kenosha Conservation Club for a day of shooting shotguns and rifles. A few adults (me included) stayed in camp to watch and use the radio equipment that Mr. Boos brought along. His station was partly powered by a solar array that kept the radio operation most of the time.

Here's Mr. Boos working with some Cub Scouts who were our for a hike and ended up talking on the radio.

Long about 3 PM, the shooting sports participants returned and we lots of stories about their day. Shooting is not like fishing....there weren't lots of exaggerations about skills and accuracy. I guess the target tells no lies. Ben R, who originally was not going to shoot, reported that not only did he shoot, but he was pretty good at it, too. From what I could tell, the firepower was shock and awe.

With the sun already beginning to make its slow descent into the western horizon, the Scouts began cooking up their evening feasts. There were some great meals again: Beef stew with biscuits and an Oreo pie for dessert, lasagna with a pumpkin cake cobbler for dessert and steaks wrapped in

bacon with a Ranger cobbler for dessert. That was some eating. The adults got in on it too, but we're sworn to secrecy about our culinary triumphs.



Zach M and Kyle J organized our evening's entertainment. We hiked a short ways from our base to a beautiful, campfire site. While the fire starting was a bit tricky, in no time we had a roaring flame and shared skits, stories and songs. We ended the fire with a round of Rose, Bud and Thorn. Lots of roses, lots of buds describing warm showers and long sleeps, and very few thorns. All in all, a great weekend.

When we awoke on Sunday morning, the skies were still "severe clear" and we enjoyed a cool, October morning. We had two patrols making biscuits and gravy while the third made pancakes and sausages for breakfast. The site smelled great. (I sometimes imagine that there are critters on the edge of the campsite watching us and wondering what smells so good.)

After a meaningful Scout's interfaith service, we loaded up the cars for the quick drive to Grayslake. It wasn't long before the sun was gone and it started to rain.

*Scouts Participating:*

Ethan Blennis	Spencer Boos	Nick Borovka	Joey Cambio
Kyle Judge	Fritz, Klett (one night)	Nathan Sislow	Josh Marks
Rahil Verma	Sam Mitchell	Jonathon Lewis	Richard Wegner
Ben Reyes	Brandon Nitto	Dalton Nitto	Alex Kuscik
Zach Levy	Zach Monohan (one night)		

*Adults Participating:*

John Boos	Chris Borovka	Steve Cambio	Pat Klemens
Craig Levy	Cheri Blennis	Todd Nitto	Jaime Reyes
Steve Kuscik			

Peter Klett, John McCall and Dave Sislow spent the day with us on Saturday.



<p><b>November Campout</b></p> <p><b>This month's camping features the Troop 96 Webelos Invitational Campout. Local Packs will be visiting and camping with the Troop.</b></p> <p><b>The Troop will meet at St Gilbert at 5:30PM Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> we will depart by 6PM</b></p> <p><b>We will be camping at BSA Camp Lakota near Woodstock, IL.</b></p>	
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## Scout Jam 2012 – What a Blast!

(by Pat Klemens)

Scouts from across northeast Illinois gathered at Lakewood Forest Preserve for the quadrennial (every four years) gathering of our Council's Boy Scout troops. Troop 96 was only able to send one patrol as this campout occurred "in between" our regular September and October campouts. But if you were one of the Scouts who made it, you know what everyone else missed.

As usual, we gathered in the St. Gilbert parking lot to load our gear and check our lists before heading out. What was unusual was our drive. Instead of driving to some remote, wild location hours from home, we tootled-along to Wauconda. In less than 10 miles, we were on site. There wasn't even a chance to ask, "Are we there yet?"

Arriving at Lakewood, it was obvious this was something different, something big. Our trailer lined up alongside another two dozen that were already unloading gear and making a small tent city. I'm sure that on October 5<sup>th</sup>, Wauconda was the fastest growing town in Lake County.

We tried to find our assigned plot by stumbling around in the field as darkness descended, but no luck. But wait, who is this smiling face bounding across the field? Why, it's Mr. Sislow! He's helping troops find their space and in no time, he's pointed out ours. Oh no, it's a long way from our space to the trailer! Well, take a deep breath and start hauling gear. Soon enough, we have all the fixings to make a great troop campsite in the middle of field filled with other great troops.

Acting Senior Patrol Leader Ethan D and I went to the opening meeting where we got all the latest info on the weekend's activities. With more than 1300 participants reported to be on the site, we were sure this was going to be a great event.

After the meeting, we came back to our site for cracker-barrel before Taps sounded and the field of Scouts grew silent (almost silent - there was some snoring!!).

Bright and early on a cold, bright Saturday morning, we were up to make breakfast and get ready for the big day. During the Opening Assembly, the Marine Corps Color Guard present the flags and we saw a convoy of Army vehicles pull in. That doesn't happen at every Scout campout!

The Scouts spread out in all directions to attend the events and activities located across the many acres at Lakewood. Scouts could sail, climb a wall, traverse a rope monkey bridge and rope merry-go-round, visit many different displays, eat hot dogs, shop at the Scout Shop and more. We didn't see the Scouts almost all day. They were too busy on the site checking everything out.

By 4:30, everyone was back in our campsite to prepare dinner before the Council-wide campfire. We had great food - far better than the burgers and cold sandwiches we saw "across the street." By 8 PM, we were heading back to the main stage for the closing fire. We were early and got pretty good seats. The show was pretty typical for a Scout campfire. Songs, stories and lots of puns. I was jazzed to be able to deliver the Scoutmaster's Minute at the end of the fire.

Sunday morning was another clear and cold start. We packed up while cooking hot breakfasts. We weren't fast enough to get to the closing flag ceremony, but then again, we had hot breakfasts instead of donuts and cold cereal that we saw again "across the street."

The walk across the big field to re-load all the gear took a lot of energy (and time) but soon enough we were heading home to Grayslake - just "over the hill" from Wauconda.

*Scouts Participating:*

Ethan Blennis	Nathan Cibula	Joshua Marks	Sam Michell
Ethan DeKeyser	William DeKeyser	Christian Mack	Josh Marks

*Adults Participating:*

David Cibula	Doug DeKeyser	Pat Klemens	Kevin Mack
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**Troop 96 Scouts on October Campout Participate in Jamboree on the Air, (JOTA), a radio event organized by the World Scouting Organization**

Thanks to Mr. Boos and as part of his Wood Badge ticket the scouts of our troop were able to participate in this year's JOTA event. Here is a part of his write up that made for a fun activity at the campout.



"A total of 19 stations were contacted, in 11 states, Italy and Ontario, Canada. A couple of notable contacts were with WX5BSA operating battery portable with a Venture Crew at Philmont, NM, VE3CBK operating with Canadian Venture Crew and Rovers from Opemikon Scout Camp in Ontario, K14KBO, a blind amateur radio operator from Virginia, and Eagle Scout WA4JKW in Virginia. States contacted were: Arkansas, Kansas, Virginia, Alabama, Florida, West Virginia, Texas, Maryland, New Mexico, Vermont, and New Jersey, we also contacted Italy and Ontario.

Most of the scouts in Troop 96 were able to get on the microphone and make a contact with another scout over the radio. They enjoyed discussing things of mutual interest, like camping, and also learning about each other's interests. This also fulfilled a Radio Merit Badge requirement.

We also had a visit during the afternoon from Cub Scout Pack 199, who were hiking through our camp area. We invited the cub scouts to get on the air. The Pack had boys from Tiger through Webelos, they all had a chance to get on the air and see what the radio was all about."

Scoutmaster's Corner  
by Pat Klemens



We had two campouts since the Gazette published last time:

ScoutJam on Oct 5-7 at Lakewood Forest Preserve near Wauconda, while the second campout this month was held Oct 19-21 at Crown near Wilmot, Wis. We went to the Kenosha Conservation Club for a day of Shooting Sports on Saturday. After shooting, we had a chance to go on the air with Mr. Boos' radio equipment. "Jamboree on the Air" was fun and our Scouts had a chance to talk with Scouts in the US and in other countries.

**Troop Leadership Training Completed**

Ten Scouts from the PLC met on Sunday, Nov 4 to be trained in their responsibilities as the leaders of the troop. Your PLC learned about key leadership skills, including the importance of good communication. Further, we reviewed the practices of the EDGE method. Lastly, we had a good discussion regarding the use of cell phones in Scouting. Stay tuned for more on this topic.

Pictured (L to R): Ethan D, Anthony D, Nathan C, Nathan T, Andrew G, Alex T, Brandon N, Spencer B, Matthew S and Kyle J.



Did you see there are significant changes to coming in 2014 for Eagle Scout requirements? Check out our Troop Website (<http://www.BoyScoutTroop96.com>) for all the details.

Merit Badge Days will be held this year on Nov 10 and 11 instead of one day at Great Lakes. [Go to the NEIC Council](#) web site to see what's being offered, when and how to sign up for the merit badge of your choice.

Later this month, we'll be holding our BIG Webelos Invitational Campout. We expect Webelos Scouts from area Cub Scout packs to join us on the weekend before Thanksgiving. This year, we're breaking with recent tradition and will go to Camp Lakota near Woodstock instead of Camp Ohdakota near Burlington, WI. The PLC is already preparing for this big weekend of Scouting. We always have a good time showing the Webelos how we like to camp. Come on out and share a weekend of Scouting. Permission slips are due on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> along with your \$15 food money.

Check out our Troop Website (<http://www.BoyScoutTroop96.com>) anytime for the latest Troop 96 news.



## Troop 96 Committee

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**October 2012 PLC Minutes**      SPL: Nathan T, ASPL: Anthony D, Scribe: Andrew G

*(Scouts should check out the [Troop Cookbook](#) for meal ideas before the November 12 troop meeting)*

- November 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday before Webelos Invitational at Camp Lakota)
  - Campout prep led by each Patrol Leader, quarter master, and grub master.
  - Cold weather camping by Nathan T, Anthony D , Kyle J, and Andrew G
- November 19<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Week)
  - Songs and Troop Spirit by Mr. Boos
  - Weather by Mr. Klemens
  - Game: Andrew G. and Brandon N. with a song
- November 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Annual Troop Gear Auction
  - Game: Cracker whistling challenge
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Disabilities awareness with Mrs. Blennis
  - Disability Awareness games

**Check out the Troop Website – [www.boyscouttroop96.com](http://www.boyscouttroop96.com)**

**Boy Scouts of America, Troop 96  
Grayslake, Illinois  
Parental Authorization/Permission**

Our Troop 96 November campout will be November 16-18, 2012. Saturday's activities will include a variety of basic Scouting activities to be shared with our Webelos guests. We will be camping at Camp Lakota near Woodstock, Illinois.

Contact the camping hot line at (847) 223-7233 after 9:30 AM on Sunday to get a more precise return time, and plan on collecting your son within 10 minutes of the time announced on the camping hot line. Parents are to pick up Scouts at the church parking lot and take home troop gear for cleaning/drying as assigned by the Troop Quartermaster or delegate.

Please note on the permission slip if an Adult will accompany the Scout or if special transportation arrangements will occur for the Scout.

During the outing, the troop adult leadership can be contacted (in case of emergency) at the following number: 847-497-0626

**(Retain the upper portion for your records and information)**

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My son: \_\_\_\_\_ can attend the Troop 96 Scout camping to trip November 16-18, 2012.

I understand that participation in the activity involves a certain degree of risk. I have carefully considered the risk involved and have given consent for myself or my child to participate in the activity. I understand that participation in the activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by applicable rules and standards of conduct. I release the Boy Scouts of America, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with the activity from any and all claims or liability arising out of this participation. In case of emergency involving my child, I understand every effort will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the medical provider selected by the adult leader in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child. Medical providers are authorized to disclose to the adult in charge examination findings, test results, and treatment provided for purposes of medical evaluation of the participant, follow-up and communication with the participant's parents or guardian, and/or determination of the participant's ability to continue in the program activities.

Parents Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please note any allergies or relevant medical conditions. Please list all medications, dosages and administration times for any meds to be taken during the outing.

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