

TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus
St. Gilbert Church



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<http://www.boy Scout Troop 96.com>

August 2013

Troop 96 at the National Scout Jamboree!

by Pat Klemens

Scouts from Troop 96 joined 260 Scouts and leaders from the Northeast Illinois Council and traveled to the first-ever Jamboree in West Virginia. Held in the new Bechtel Summit Reserve, the Scouts were treated to ten fabulous days of high-intensity Scouting with 40,000 Scouts from across the United States.

Troop 96 Scouts were part of Jamboree Troop C446 and Venture Crew F402. Supported by Peter Klett (Scoutmaster), Kevin Wehde (F402 Crew Advisor) and C446 assistants Scott Timmins and Dave Sislow, they saw and did as much as could be done.



Every troop, upon arrival, was directed to a campsite (36' x 180') that they would make home for ten days. Three pallets of gear were stacked at each site and contained everything needed to make the space home: tents, tables, flies, stoves, kitchens, etc. Under the blazing hot sun, we made

our campsites and the Summit came to life. Seas of the same colored tents made up each Sub-camp.

With camp made, it was time to explore. Scouts soon found the Summit has a ton of amazing places to visit: the Summit Center, Adventure Valley, The Technology Cloud, Garden Ground (the Summit of the Summit), Consul Energy Bridge, The Treehouse, Goodrich Lake and Echo Lake, Military Exhibits and The Pools among others. While those of us from Illinois are used to "flatland," the hills of West Virginia are a challenge. It was interesting to hear Scouts talking about their plans for the day: "Hey, do you want to go to The Bows for archery? It's about a 30-minute walk." The second Scout might

reply: "Sure, only thirty minutes? That's way better than going to Echo Lake for fly-fishing. That's about an hour's hike." And then the retort: "Okay, let's go there this afternoon!"

And so it was at Jamboree. We had a great Opening Show on Tuesday and an amazing Summit Show on Saturday. Great performances included a talk from Dirty Job's Mike Rowe and a concert by Three Doors Down. (You can watch the show online at [HERE](#). There were so many things to do and not enough days to do them all. And when there wasn't anything else planned, Scouts could always start up a patch trading session. Patch trading at Jamborees has always been big and this tradition continues at the Summit.

Every troop also experienced two other big days at the Summit. We hiked as troops to Garden Ground- the Summit of the Summit. Led by members of the Order of the Arrow, Scouts would hike from the Summit Center to the base of Garden Ground Mountain. Then, after refilling water bottles, the hike up to the summit would begin. Depending on your route, most units arrived about two hours later. It can be a tough hike but everyone made it. At the top, there are more activities to sample including Scottish Highland games, Buckskin Games, a 1910 Scout Camp, Pioneering Village, Indian Village and more. After a full day on the Summit, Scouts would board buses for the ride back to Summit Center and a hike back to their site.



Troops also participated in a Day of Service. Scouts would board buses and travel to nine different nearby West Virginia counties to perform service projects. I had the chance to talk with many of the citizens of West Virginia and they were simply amazed at the size and scale of our volunteerism. More than 350 projects were worked (and most completed) during the period of the Jamboree. We left a positive legacy for those who follow us the future Jamborees at the Summit.

Did Scouts stand in long lines? Yes. Did they get dirty? Yes. Did some miss out on doing things they had hoped to do? Yes. Did they dislike some of the food? Yes. Are their hiking boots so mud saturated they are unusable now? Yes. Did they have the best time of their short lives, and accumulate a ton of memories and skills that will stay with them forever? YES.

Check out the pictures on the BSA's Flickr site to get some idea of all that happened.

Oh, and we do it all again in 2017!

New Troop 96 Website Goes Live

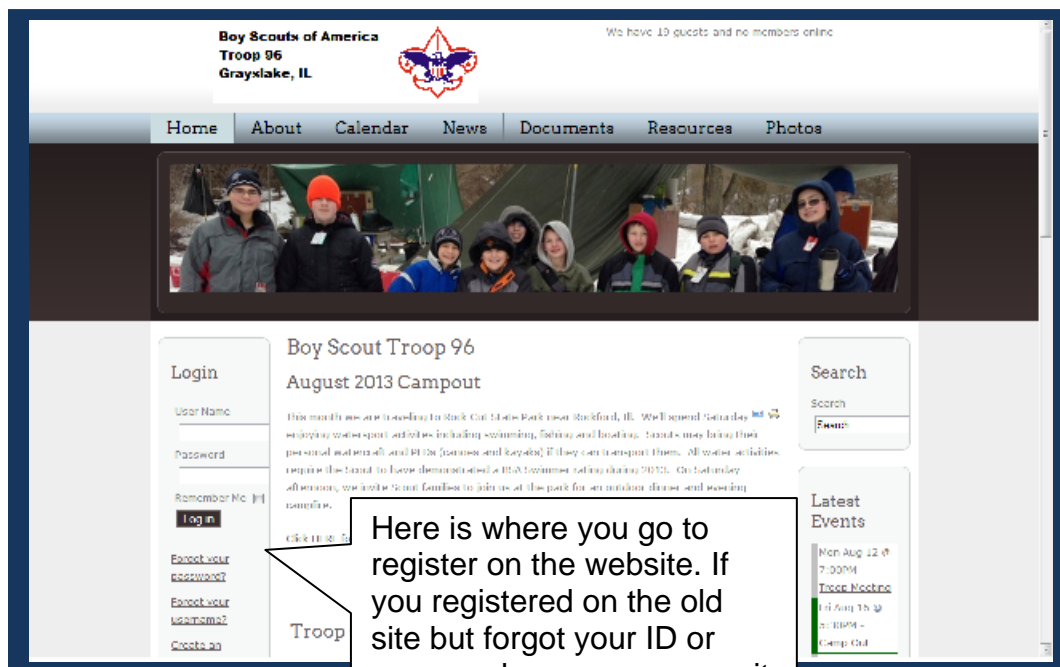
While the Troop was away at the National Jamboree, the Troop 96 website underwent a major overhaul. The address is still the same: <http://www.boyscouttroop96.com>

Most obviously there is a new look and feel, however all of the most frequently used content and more has been retained so if there is something you can't find just let us know and we will help you. If there is something that you remember that is not on this version just let us know, we have all of the content from the old website and will be happy to add the content to the new site.

A few of the technical reasons for upgrading the site were to get stronger security and control over who can see what content, and to make the site more mobile friendly. There is no flash content in the new version so you can count on video and audio files playing on your favorite mobile device, including iPhones and iPads.

Because of the new security capabilities we encourage you to register on the site and to logon when you visit, that will enable you to view our archive of Troop Gazettes, comment on news articles, submit new articles, make corrections to articles you have created, and get a copy of the Troop roster should you need it to contact another scout. Only scouts and scouters registered on the site and recognized by the site administrators will have access to this content. Additional features such as "Sign up Central", and a capability to send e-mail blasts are planned for the future and will be added over time. Most of the new features will be only available to registered users who are members of the troop and use their logon to access the site.

Like to see something more, let us know what it is so that we can try to include it.



The screenshot shows the website header with the Boy Scouts of America logo and Troop 96 information. A navigation menu includes Home, About, Calendar, News, Documents, Resources, and Photos. A large photo of scouts is featured below the menu. The main content area has a 'Login' section with fields for User Name and Password, a 'Remember Me' checkbox, and a 'Log in' button. Below the login fields are links for 'Forgot your password?' and 'Create an account'. To the right of the login section is a 'Search' box and a 'Latest Events' section listing upcoming activities like 'Troop Meeting' and 'Camp Out'. A callout box points to the login section with the text: 'Here is where you go to register on the website. If you registered on the old site but forgot your ID or password you can recover it here also just follow the prompts.'



the Scoutmaster's Corner
by Pat Klemens

- *What a summer it's been...so far! Not including our upcoming August campout, we already seen 842 nights of camping by the Scouts and leaders in our troop! This includes the Big Trip to South Dakota, two weeks at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, National Youth Leadership Training as well as ten nights for Jamboree Scouts and leaders.*

We have a very busy August planned, too. Here are some key dates to remember:

- Aug 5: Troop Meeting at Jones Island
- Aug 12: Troop Meeting at Jones Island
- Aug 16-18: Camping at Rock Cut: Families welcome for BBQ Dinner
- August 19: Troop Meeting back at StG Chapel Hall
- August 23: Wood Badge Training starts for six adults in our Troop
- August 26: Troop Meeting at StG Hall

- This summer, Kyle Judge and Ethan DeKeyser participated in **National Youth Leadership Training** (NYLT) at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. NYLT is a six-day course. The National Course Description states: "Content is delivered in a troop and patrol outdoor setting with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Interconnecting concepts and work processes are introduced early, built upon, and aided by the use of memory aids, which allows participants to understand and employ the leadership skills much faster. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership." This month, Spencer Boos will attend an out-of-council NYLT course in Oregon, IL.
- Our chartering organization, the Knights of Columbus, hold **Blood Drives** throughout the year. Consider donating the "Gift of Life" at one of their upcoming drives: Sept 29 or Nov 24. We also need a couple of Scouts to help set up and take down the Blood Drive. Check the website calendar for the details.
- Troop 96 will again be **working at PADS** this fall and winter to help those without shelter to have a place to sleep and get a warm meal. We will be working on the following days at the United Protestant Church in GL: Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5. Each session starts at 4:30 and is usually done in an hour.
- Have you seen our new Website? A big thanks to Assistant Scoutmaster John McCall for his energy and effort converting our old site to this new format. Please register and create an account on the site (www.BoyScoutTroop96.com). We are planning for additional content to be located on our "private" section of the website. Check it out and let us know what you think!

PLC Notes – June 11, 2013

13 Scouts attended: Bryan, Paul, Kyle, David, Nathan C, Matthew, Ethan, Drew, Alex, Rahil, Nick, Spencer, Christian.

Bryan requested the PL's provide monthly reports beginning in July.
Theme for July and August: water sports

<p><u>July 8th:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Island: Lifesaving instruction by Spencer 	<p><u>June 15th:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting due to Jamboree and MKJW
<p><u>Aug 5th:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Island 	<p><u>Aug 12th:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Island, campout prep • Safety Afloat training: Bryan • Float Trip plan: an TBA adult • Family cookout
<p><u>Aug 19th:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website and social media, phone tree • Game: Name that merit badge, Kyle 	<p><u>Aug 26th:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency preparedness • Update phone tree.

If you have any ideas to concerns you would like to make known about the troop, then join us at the next PLC on August 20th

Troop 96 Program Staff		Call before 9 pm	<i>e-mail</i>
Pat Klemens	Scoutmaster	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
Doug DeKeyser	Asst SM MaKaJaWan Registrar	847-548-8818	Doug_kekeyser@yahoo.com
Michael Hoffman	Asst SM -Training Coordinator	847-772-5085	mikebeckyhoffman@att.net
Dave Jacks	Asst SM - Eagle Guide	847-999-8328	djacks@rim.com
Peter Klett	Asst SM	224-545-6555	Pjk3@ntrs.com
Kevin Mack	Asst SM	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

	Troop 96 Committee	Call before 9 pm	<i>e-mail</i>
Jane Bryant-Klett	Committee Chairman	847-494-4850	Jane.bryant@abbott.com
Kevin Rupprecht	Chartered Org. Rep	847-855-9173	Kevin.rupprecht@abbott.com
Cete Rupprecht	St Gilbert Rep and Troop 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
Joe Judge	Committee Member	847-548-2048	Joe.judge@ameritech.net
Craig Levy	Committee Member	847-543-1835	Craig.Levy@gmail.com
Todd Nitto	Assistant Scoutmaster	847-543-1744	Girn2001@gmail.com
Tom Robb	Committee Member	847-223-5781	marathon220@comcast.net
Pat Shurtliff	Committee Member	847-543-1954	socrfmly@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	Patbethschwab@comcast.net



August 2013 Campout

This month we are traveling to Rock Cut State Park near Rockford, Ill. We'll spend Saturday enjoying watersport activities including swimming, fishing and boating. Scouts may bring their personal watercraft and PFDs (canoes and kayaks) if they can transport them. All water activities require the Scout to have demonstrated a BSA Swimmer rating during 2013. On Saturday afternoon, we invite Scout families to join us at the park for an outdoor dinner and evening campfire.

The signed permission slip is due on August 12 - no exceptions - along with \$15 cash for the purchase of food by the patrols.

