

# TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus  
St. Gilbert Church



Grayslake, Illinois

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December 2013

## **WILD WEBELOS (WEATHER) WEEKEND**

by Pat Klemens

Wow, what a weekend! The troop descended on The Pines of Camp OhDaKoTa for our annual Wild Webelos Weekend. If you add up the 24 Webelos, plus their parents and the Troop 96 Scouts and adults, we saw nearly 100 people in the woods of southern Wisconsin.

All during the prior week, we worried about the weekend's forecast but we really were quite lucky once again (perhaps there really is something to this *Troop 96 Weather*). Yes, it was windy and yes, there was some light precipitation. Nevertheless, the weather did not prevent us from doing anything we wanted to do. Certainly on Sunday we were shocked to learn of the tornadoes just to our south, but where we were, it really was pretty good.



Saturday dawned cold with temperatures in the lower 20's and brisk winds from the south about 20. As the day brightened from dark overcast to light overcast, we saw the winds increase and the temperatures "warm" to the 30's. Troop 96 Scouts were up at 6 AM to ready their breakfasts before the arrival of the Webelos at 9AM. Our three patrols cranked out some delicious meals including pancakes and bacon by two patrols and a special egg bread concoction made by Jonathan Lewis that put smiles on the faces of his patrol.

Although the weather forecast was not in our favor, the actual weather wasn't too bad. We set up for the day on the assumption that all of the Webelos and parents would join us. Sure enough, by about 10 am, everyone was on-site and getting acquainted. SPL Kyle Judge brought the entire crowd together for an opening assembly. With opening formalities complete, we led the Webelos (quickly) away as the mighty Bobwhites sang the Gilwell song.

With so many Webelos attending, we split them up. For the morning hike, we went with two groups. I lead one group and Mr. McCall lead the other. The plan was to meet "in

the middle” and talk to everyone about the troop’s camping calendar. We had planned to meet on Pioneer Island, one of our favorite places at the camp. However, for the first time ever, there was a troop camping there. They were getting ready to spend a night of Wilderness Survival. They took some time to speak with our Webelos and explained the adventure that they had planned for the weekend. So, instead of using the small Adirondack shelters on Pioneer Island to hold our talk with the Webelos, we headed over to the Order of the Arrow Bowl. Along the way, we stopped at the always-popular “dungeon.” We have no idea why this padlocked concrete “room” was built into the side of the hill, but it’s always a fun spot to stop and consider. Do you need a dungeon at a Scout camp?



We gathered the group at the OA bowl to talk about our troop’s emphasis on being Scout-led and our upcoming Scouting year: Iceboat sailing, snow tubing, lock-in, shelter-building, whitewater rafting, Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan and the first-ever Air Fest for Scouts in August. I think we got their attention.

While we were hiking, Troop 96 Scouts were busy preparing for the afternoon activities: Pioneering, Wood Tools and Wood Tool Safety plus Firebuilding. We returned from our hike to enjoy a hearty lunch then connected the Webelos groups with our three patrols. Troop 96 Scouts did a fantastic job of showcasing our troop’s scout spirit. Check out the super swingset that was built and operated for the entire afternoon.



The rain that was expected to fall hard in the late afternoon never happened. We had some mist, drizzle and an occasional shower, but nothing to stop us. Hey, we’re in the woods having fun. What’s a little rain when there is so much going on?

By 4 pm, we started work on our evening feasts. Yes, the three patrols and the adults prepared remarkable feasts. Our patrols made Chicken ‘n Dumplings, Black Swamp Pasta and Italian Sausage Pasta for the Webelos along with some ‘killer’ chocolate cake and cobblers. The troop adults fed the Webelos parents and *only* managed to prepare several pork roasts, one deep-fried turkey, one ham, numerous side dishes and just 13 desserts: pies, cobblers, torts, cakes and two buckets of fresh whipped cream. Where else does \$15 buy food this amazing for a weekend?

After our spectacular dinners, we gathered under the massive timbered tee-pee for our closing campfire. Lead by our seasoned Troop 96 Players, we enjoyed a super program that showed the Webelos how we do it. Following the fire, some Scouts ended the night with a great game of Sentry on the hill by our site. What a day!

As we were going to bed, we could tell it was noticeably warmer. During the early morning hours, the winds dropped to just a gentle breeze and the temperature rose – a

lot. To have the temperature rise to over 60 degrees through the night is definitely not normal for November and so we were on guard for potential nasty storms. Again, we were up at 6 AM to quickly fix our breakfasts and break camp. The Scouts prepared two different versions of the classic Dutch Oven Mountain Man dish while the third patrol made pancakes and bacon. Over at the adult site, large quantities of eggs and bacon were made along with fresh coffee cake and oatmeal.

As we broke camp, the winds picked up again, but this time they were warm. We hauled our gear from the sites to load up the trailer for the ride home. Although we had planned an “inter-faith service” to be held on the side of the hill, the weather was too dicey to stay any longer. We loaded the cars and headed back to Grayslake.

As we turned onto Highway 50 just a mile or so south of camp, our radios and cellphone crackled with warnings of a tornado in the area. Sirens began to wail in the distance. It was definitely time to go! We had just survived another Wild Webelos (Weather) Weekend.

The following attended the November 2013 Campout:

Scouts:		Adults:	
Ethan Blenniss	Dalton Nitto	David Jacks	Greg Goger
Nathan Cibula	Zach Levy	John Boos	Dan Ostick
David Hoffman	Ryan Robb	Pat Klemens	Tom Robb
Andrew Goger	Matthew Symonds	John McCall	Joe Judge
Alex Kucsik	Alex Tamulaitus	Kevin Wehde	Michael Hoffmann
Nick Borovka	Jacob Stutzman	Kevin Rupprecht	Matthew Symonds
Jonathon Lewis	Owen Schwab	Craig Vogel	Peter Klett
Kyle Judge	Brandon Nitto	Shawn Vogel	Vyt Tamulaitus
Fritz Klett		Kevin Mack	Craig Levy
		Todd Nitto	

### Upcoming Troop 96 Service Projects

PADS Set ups - 4:30 to 6 PM Dec. 5

### December 2013 Campout

The Troop will pause to enjoy the holidays with our fellow scouts and families in the month of December. There will be no campout this month.

In January the 2014 camping year will begin with a campout at Big Foot Beach State Park near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The campout will be January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and the activity will be Ice Boat Sailing, anyone got any Ice Boats?





the Scoutmaster's Corner  
by Pat Klemens

Our annual **Webelos Invitational** was held two weeks before Thanksgiving at Camp Ohdakota near Burlington, WI. Although the forecast was for threatening weather during the entire weekend, all we experienced were high winds, some mist and wild temperature swings. Saturday morning was only in the mid-20's but Sunday morning was 61 degrees! Scout skills and Scout Spirit were on display throughout the weekend and our Scouts impressed the potential new Scouts and their parents. Thanks to everyone who made it happen, including the adult chefs who cooked up masterful meals for our guests. We somehow managed to eat it all – and it was a lot. We most certainly showed the Webelos what camping “Troop 96-style” is like. We hope they choose to continue in Scouting – and if they join Troop 96 that would be even better. As of Dec 1, we expect about 15 new Scouts to join us, maybe more.

**No Troop Meetings over the holidays: we will be “off” on both Monday, Dec 23rd and Dec 30th.**

**Urban Bird Census** – December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm...

The Troop was contacted in November and asked to participate in a nationwide bird census. According to the invitation, we are the only troop in Illinois to be asked to help. If you would like to participate, it will only take ten (10) minutes of your time. The troop PLC has said that we will take our observations on Sunday, Dec 8 at 3:30 PM. Select an area about one-half the size of a basketball court (or 50' x 50'). Use [second page of this document](#) to learn which birds to record and use [the census form](#) to make your observation (or visit <http://celebrateurbanbirds.org/>). Bring your completed form to the Dec 9<sup>th</sup> troop meeting and we'll submit all forms together to Cornell University.

We will again meet at the United Protestant Church on Thursday, Dec 5 to **set up for PADS**. Please join us, in uniform, at 4:45 PM.

Mr. Todd Nitto, as part of his Wood Badge ticket, is working with the troop to support the Marine Corps' **annual Toys for Tots** drive. If you would like to make a difference for a child who might otherwise have a dreary Christmas, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to any troop meeting through Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. On that night, the Marine Corps will be at our meeting to pick-up our contributions.

In preparation for winter outings, including our January campout, we are building **four wooden iceboats**. We are looking for donations of old ice skates to use for the runners of the iceboats.

The **annual Order of the Arrow Banquet** will be held on December 29<sup>th</sup> at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling. Please register at [NEIC.org](http://NEIC.org). If you attend, you will learn about the fascinating “85-year **History of Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan,**” **2014 Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Opportunities, OA High Adventure Opportunities, 2015 NOAC and see the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Promotional Video.**

**Christmas Wish List:** If you've read this far, thanks! You must be one of our Troop 96 supporters. This year, we're re-publishing our Christmas Wish List for the troop. If you would like to help us out, take a look at our list and consider giving a gift to Troop 96!

- Pre-paid gas cards to help defer the cost of the pulling our trailer
- Box of "instant" hand warmers
- Meat thermometers (analog)
- Metal kitchen utensils (for example, large spoons or spatulas)

As we look ahead to another year of Scouting in 2014, I want to pause and thank everyone for your dedication and contribution to our Troop in 2013. We have a remarkable Scouting family and its worth looking back to see what we accomplished together this year:

- We camped every month (except December). If you add up all our campouts, including our Big Trip, Jamboree and Summer Camp, we were able to offer almost 50 nights of camping! During the three summer months, we accumulated 985 nights of camping in six states (Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wyoming and West Virginia) by the members of the troop.
- We traveled with 49 Scouts and family members to Wyoming and South Dakota for this year's Big Trip and covered a total of 2500 miles. The troop trailer has never been that far West!
- We sent seventeen Scouts and four leaders to the 2013 National Jamboree in West Virginia.
- The troop helped many Scouts advance in rank and we've seen five Scouts reach the rank of Eagle (and perhaps two more this month).
- Ten Scouts (plus four adults) were elected to the Order of the Arrow and several Scouts accepted the challenge of Brotherhood membership).
- We provided many service hours (more than 1000) to the community, including blood drives, PADS, Almond Road Cleanup and, of course, Eagle projects.
- Six adults went to Wood Badge training in 2013 while others received their Wood Badge beads from the 2012 course.
- Three Scouts went to week-long National Youth Leadership Training.
- Our Webelos Invitational campout saw nearly 100 participants including 24 Webelos. We expect at least 15 new Scouts to join us in 2014.
- Kevin Wehde was selected to receive the Silver Beaver Award by the Northeast Illinois Council.
- Our troop was recognized as a Gold-level troop through the BSA's national program (*A Journey to Excellence*). We also celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> year of continuous Scouting in Grayslake during 2013.

An amazing year of amazing people doing amazing work on behalf of the young men of our troop. Thank you all.

May you share the warmth of the holidays with your families and friends. I pray that God will keep you safe throughout 2014. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pat Klemens, Scoutmaster

## Camping Plan Schedule

- - January 18-19: Big Foot Beach State Park near Lake Geneva, WI (Tent camping) Activity is Ice Boat Sailing
- - February 21-23: Indian Mounds Scout Reservation, west of Milwaukee. (Cabin Camping) Activity: Skiing & Tubing
- - March 15-16: McHenry Roller Rink Lock-in, New Scout Training & Roller Skating
- - April 11-13: Mississippi Palisades State Park near Savanna, IL. Activity is Caving in Maquoketa Caves State Park in Iowa
- - May 16-17: TBD (Crown?). Activity is Astronomy w/ Shelter Building
- - June 20-22: TBD (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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## MR KEVIN WEHDE TO RECEIVE THE SILVER BEAVER AWARD



The Council Silver Beaver Committee met to select those people who have had significant impact on Scouting in our Council. Troop 96's own **Kevin Wehde** was selected as one of six recipients to receive the Council's highest award. Mr. Wehde will be presented with this much-deserved award at the annual Council Dinner.

The Annual Dinner will be on Wednesday, March 12th at Chevy Chase Country Club at 6 p.m. Registration on the NEIC website will open January 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## Troop meetings and Activities in December

- **December 2<sup>nd</sup> .. Ice Boat development and construction**
- **December 5<sup>th</sup> .. PADS Service project**
- **December 8<sup>th</sup> .. Bird Census (see the Scoutmasters Minute)**
- **December 9<sup>th</sup> .. Ice Boat development and construction**
- **December 16<sup>th</sup> .. Ice Boat development and construction**
- **December 23<sup>rd</sup> .. No Meeting Enjoy the Holiday**
- **December 29<sup>th</sup> .. Order of the Arrow Annual Lodge Diner**
- **December 30<sup>th</sup> .. No Meeting "Happy New Year"**
- **Support the Toys for Tots program** Bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Dec 2nd, 9th or 16th meetings. The Marine Corps will be at our Dec 16th meeting to collect our contributions.

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Call before 9 pm

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