



## **Inaugural Troop 52 Alumni Newsletter**



### **Greetings to Troop 52 Alumni!**

We are pleased to announce the creation of the Troop 52 Alumni Association in order to:

- Provide updates on current and future Troop activities
- Keep you informed of upcoming events and activities
- Offer a portal to communicate with alumni – rekindle scouting friendships through the Troop Website <http://tr52.com/>
- Provide some nostalgia with photos from years gone by
- Establish an Alumni Fund to support the ongoing program needs of the Troop

### **The Joseph L. & Yvonne LeClair Scholarship Fund**



After 71 years of service to Troop 52, Joe LeClair Jr. has formally retired from the Troop 52 Committee. Yes, 71 years. In one sense, his departure from scouting is met with sadness, but yet scouting has been extremely fortunate to have had his leadership and unparalleled dedication.

We just could not let all of this effort and dedication go unrecognized and so Troop 52 has found a way to continue this unselfish involvement affecting the development of young scouts. A scholarship fund has been established to benefit Oakville/Watertown Boy Scouts for generations to come. This annual scholarship will be awarded to Boy Scouts living in Oakville/Watertown or belonging to a Boy Scout troop in Oakville/Watertown. Specifically, the award will be for furthering education after high school or for Boy Scout High Adventure expenses during their scouting years.

We would like to invite you to join us in establishing this Scholarship Fund. Your gift will be locked into a principal fund that will never be touched – the interest will be drawn off the principal annually to sustain the scholarships. Know that this gift is tax deductible, qualifies for making gifts from employers and can be made in the form of a check or stock transfer. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for the LeClair Scholarship Fund.

Please consider making a generous gift to pay tribute to this generous Scouting family by mailing your check made out to the “The LeClair Scholarship Fund” c/o Moe Bouffard, 81 Winding Brook Farm Road, Watertown, Ct 06795. Contact Moe Bouffard, Troop Committee Secretary at 860-274-8222 if you have any questions about making your donation.

### **A Report from the Scoutmaster Joseph LeClair III:**



We often say that Leadership, Service, and Adventure best describe the Scout's experience in Troop 52. In the year 2006 this was very true. I am pleased to offer this overview to my fellow alumni!

#### **Some highlights of 2006...**

Four traditional trips made winter fun and challenging. The high adventure crew stayed at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Highland Center for a weekend of cross country skiing with Camp Mattatuck Cabins as a site later in the month.

Troop 52 had a strong showing at the annual Klondike Derby as Golden Eagle Patrol finished 3rd in the Senior Division, while Moose and Grizzly finished 4th and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Standard Division. Moose was also recognized with the “Red Lantern Award” for the best patrol spirit.

We held an Adventure Hike in March on the Jericho Trail that challenged patrols in a variety of skills, and in April we hiked at the spectacular Macedonia Brook State Park. Our March, April and May camping trips were at Camp Mattatuck and Camp Barbour. In June the boys enjoyed hours of off-road cycling while we camped at White Memorial Foundation

Mike Hoffman received the **Rev. Oscar Locke Award for Citizenship** and Josh Bartlett was awarded the **Walter Thorne trophy** for scouting skills. Scouting's highest rank, **Eagle Scout**, was presented to Eric Westcott in June.

Two high adventure trips made this summer memorable. One crew paddled ocean kayaks and cycled at Acadia National Park in Maine, then climbed to the top of Mt. Katahdin. A second crew flew west for white water rafting, followed by ten days of backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The trip was preceded by several practice hikes in Connecticut.

In August, the entire troop enjoyed a wonderful week at Camp Mattatuck, where Justin Martin and Josh Bartlett spent the entire summer on staff. Justin Martin led the troop in planting shrubs on the hillside overlooking Watertown High's football field. The big “W” is a boost to team spirit.



September was an extremely busy month: Justin Martin received the **Eagle Scout** badge, along with the **Joe LeClair, Jr. Award** for dedication to Troop 52. We camped at Cape Cod for the first time and peddled the Rail Trail. Six members learned engineering-based merit badges at Sikorsky Aircraft for a weekend. Assistant Scoutmaster Brian Shannon was recognized for having completed **25 years as a troop leader**. Previous 25-year veterans are Joe LeClair Jr., Paul Hoffman, Joe LeClair III, and Clifford Emmons.

Our fall camporee had a pioneering theme with troops competing in a catapult building contest. The troop earned over \$400 for the church at the Fall Fair.

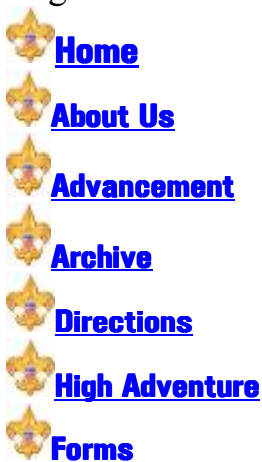
With assistance from other members, Justin Hanover designed and built soccer benches at Veteran's Park as part of his requirements to become an Eagle Scout.

In November the troop held its "Mountain Man" campout at Camp Barbour in Norfolk, and in December camped in Adirondack-style lean-to's at Camp Sequassen in New Hartford. The annual patrol-vs.-patrol Penny War rose over \$180 for holiday gifts for needy children.

After 71 years of active service in Troop 52, Joe LeClair, Jr. has decided to reduce his activities with the committee and resign as Advancement Chairman. Joe has served in numerous capacities in the troop and district, including 14 years as Assistant Scoutmaster, 21 years as Scoutmaster, and 30 years on the troop committee.

### **Troop 52 Website**

The Website has become an integral part of troop communication. Assistant Scoutmaster, David Westcott is our current webmaster. Ray Zawislak played a key role in establishing the original website.



There will be a special place for Alumni to visit and exchange e-mails with other alumni in a secure setting that is password protected. All you will need to do is send an email to our webmaster requesting access to the Alumni page. [webmaster@tr52.com](mailto:webmaster@tr52.com). Once your status as a former scout is verified he will send you the access password!



## **Mothers Auxiliary Celebrates 50 years of Service**

The Mothers' Auxiliary of Troop 52 was founded in 1957 and has remained very active through the years. The Auxiliary has assisted the Troop Committee in raising funds for the troop and to assist the troop in planning and coordinating special events such as the annual family picnic and Eagle presentations.

The main fund-raiser for the past few years has been the Ziti Dinner that has enabled them to provide funds for the troop to help defray such costs as a portion of each boy's summer camp fee, pay for Fall and Spring Camporee costs, Order of the Arrow, Klondike Derby expenses, and miscellaneous small expenses.

### **Mark Your Calendar for March 31, 2007 for the Annual Ziti Dinner!**

They still maintain the "Oldie But Goodie Shop" that enables them to sell used uniforms and equipment. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the parlor of the Union Congregational Church.

**Troop 52 Cookbook Sale:** The Auxiliary is selling custom made cookbooks with original "Family tested" recipes from Troop 52 families and scouts. If you are interested in purchasing this one-of-a-kind cookbook to help the troop please contact Brenda Bartlett at 945-3748. Cost \$10.00



### **Troop 52 Historian Corner:**

From the Photo Album: (Are you in these pictures?) Let us now!

