



~Current Calendar/ Upcoming Events~

- Sky Zone Dec./Jan.
- Bottle Drive Jan. 10
- Lock in – tbd Jan. 10
- Ski Trip Jan. 16-19



Gift Ideas for your Scout:

- BPA-free heavy plastic plate and bowl, utensils- \$6 at Walmart or Target camping section
- BSA Silva Compass- \$15 at Scout store or online
- Stansport 360 heavy stainless steel mess kit- \$20 from Amazon.com
- Solar USB Charger- \$20 at Amazon.com
- Camelbak backpack with water bladder- \$30-\$50 at REI and other stores
- Teton Sports Scout 3400 adjustable internal frame backpack- \$65 on sale at Amazon.com
- Light My Fire Spork XM BPA-Free Tritan Spork- \$5 at various stores
- Miscellaneous camping games at REI- \$5-\$10
- Flint and steel firestarter- \$4 at Harbor Freight
- Sleeping bag stuff sack price range \$4-\$20 available at Kmart/any sporting goods store or \$10 at Scout store or online
- Hothand hand Warmers -great stocking stuffer - ocean State, Kmart, walmart, etc. range \$1-\$10 (multipack)
- Contico storage locker (Walmart #001140579) \$34.97 - will need for summer camp and can be used for Old South Youth Group Camp too
- Headlamp - price range \$5 - \$25 depending on where it's purchased
- Therm-a-rest ridge rest solite sleeping pad from REI \$19.95
- Wool socks- \$4 at Ocean State Job Lot
- Thermalunderwear
- Waterproof winter gloves
- Hat
- Rain/windbreaker jacket with hood (Totes Rain Poncho- \$5 with coupon at Michaels)
- Small daypack
- Emergency Whistle
- Boys Life magazine
- Beef jerky (stocking stuffer)
- Toiletry kit
- Snow pants

Happy Birthday (some belatedly) to the following:



Luke Kettell	11/1
Jimmy Sheehan	11/2
Jacob Peirce	11/14
Matt Norton	11/28
Joe McKay	12/14
Ed Palmer	12/17
Jack Duggan	12/19
Aidan Foley	12/25
Mike Lee	12/27

Scouts in the News

Congratulations to **Shawn McElligot** for earning an advanced brown belt at the American Kempo Karate Academy. Congratulations also to **Colin Milch** on being selected to perform with the Senior Southeastern District band as 1st trumpet 4th chair for their January 10th performance. He was also invited to audition for the highly selective All-State band on January 24th. Good luck Colin!

Camp Nobscot Cabin Trip

For all scouts interested in attending Troop 9's cabin camping trip at Nobscot Scout Reservation on February 6-8, please be advised that there is a half mile hike to the cabin. Scouts will need to hike all of their gear in plus one item of troop gear. Gear will need to be packed in a backpack or duffel bag that can be carried over the shoulder/back so that hands remain free. In addition, at the troop meeting on January 29th, scouts planning on attending this trip will need to attend the troop meeting with the footwear they will be hiking in and the outerwear they will be bringing. Winter or work boots will be the only acceptable footwear (sneakers may be worn in the cabin). Hoodies and shorts will not be acceptable outerwear.

Bottle Drive

Our next Bottle Drive is Saturday January 10th from 9-1 at Pond Plain. A sign-up will be available on December 18th and January 8th. Please remember to tell family, friends and neighbors to save their bottles and cans!



Ski Trip 2015

Mrs. Kelley rented a mom's lodge for anyone who would like to bring their daughter(s) or scout siblings on the ski trip. The lodge is located 3 minutes from Shawnee Peak. Call or email me with any questions or interest. kmkelley2@verizon.net

A Note About SCOUT ACCOUNTS

Many of the parents of Troop 9 do not realize how much money is in the son's personal scout account. These numbers are on the attached email page so that you may all see how your son can make money for their accounts to help pay scout expenses. As you will see, some of the scouts did well in adding to their accounts by putting some effort in our last fundraiser, the Spooktacular Road Race, and other opportunities.

You can use this money for scouting activities such as campouts, dues payments, summer camp, uniforms, scout clothing etc. It's a great chance to earn money and be able to use the funds to save and cut costs. Please review the attached list and if your son's name is not listed, you can contact Tim Barry or Peter O'Hare.



Scoutmaster Minute

While my Game of Thrones reference in the last Scoutmaster Minute could have come from either the books or the TV show, I received many comments on it directed at the TV show (even some comments from scouts), so let's go back to TV for this Minute.

There are only a few shows that I enjoy to watch on a regular basis. Game of Thrones is one and as several scouts know from discussions around the campfire, The Walking Dead (TWD) is another. For the record, I was not the one to start those discussions. Anyway, believe it or not, there is a lot of ways to tie a TV show about the zombie apocalypse to scouting, so let's pick a few:

- Leadership development- In scouting, scouts get the opportunity to develop leadership skills to ultimately make confident decisions for the whole troop. Scouts develop leadership by taking on leadership positions with greater and greater responsibilities. In TWD, we've seen Rick develop as a leader from first trying to please everyone, then leaning more on others for advice and consensus and now to the point that he's making confident decisions for the entire group "We ARE going to rescue Beth and Carol." Both need strong leaders for the survival or success of the group.
- Outdoor survival skills- Just look at the merit badges offered in scouting- Wilderness Survival, First Aid, Camping, Emergency Preparedness and Orienteering just to name a few. Scouting offers the chance to develop the skills to be self-sufficient and to help others. The example of scout skills in TWD are numerous- Daryl's tracking skills, Rick's first aid saving Herschel's life, Gareth's group cooking over an open fire, tying a bowline around Glenn's waist before lowering him down the well, Morgan's many useful "camp" gadgets. I could go on, but suffice it to say, you never know when skills learned in scouting could come in handy.
- Teamwork- Whether it is cooking meals, working on advancement or competing in a competition, a scout patrol needs to work together for the common goal. If each patrol member only does what is best for himself or what he wants to do, the patrol is weak and won't accomplish its goal. The group's survival in TWD depends on everyone working together, where one person's selfish act could lead to someone being eaten by zombies.

Take your favorite TV shows, movies or books and see if you can find any tie ins to scouting. Chances are you can find a few.

To all of Troop 9's scouts, leaders and families, best wishes for joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Phil Barthel, Scoutmaster



Committee Corner

I would like to thank committee member Chris Quinn for stepping up and taking over the duties of Transportation Chairman. Chris will coordinate the travel plans of the scout trips by making sure there is enough drivers for campouts, and will oversee that someone maintains the sign out list at the return of a campout. Please thank Chris when you see him and please support him by helping be a driver to or from campouts.

Also, a BIG thank you to Nancy Dezinkurt and Danielle Ames for spearheading Troop 9's first Sooktacluar Road Race. Their hard work and everyone who helped them made this a great fundraiser. Scouts were able to add to their personal accounts along with helping gain funds for Troop 9. They are already planning next year's race. I'm quite sure it just as great if not better. Thanks to you both and everyone who helped out.

May each and every one of you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and may you all have a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year.

***Yours in Scouting,
Tim Barry
Committee Chairman***

Meet The Committee Member:
Suzanne Zooleck



How many years have you been involved with Troop 9? I first got involved in scouting with Pack 9 about 12 years ago. When my oldest son crossed over the Troop, so did I!

Do you have or have you had a scout in the troop? I currently have one son, Izaiah, in the troop. My oldest son, Zach, attained Eagle last June and has aged out.

What role(s) do you have in the Troop? I am currently the Committee Secretary. I take notes at all committee meetings. I have held this job for several years now. I am also responsible for the weekly announcements, the monthly newsletters, and the

What do you like best about Troop 9? I think what I like best for my sons is that they have learned so much about leadership, values, and responsibility. For myself, I really enjoy connecting with other parents and having the opportunity to help new parents as they begin to navigate the ins and outs of our large troop.

What is one of your favorite memories from a Troop 9 event or meeting? I don't really have just one. I loved going on the Gettysburg trip a few years back and also on the White Water Rafting trip I suppose some of my favorite memories are of the troop at Pond Plain. It was smaller then, but the boys had so much fun at the troop meetings. I love the Courts of Honor that we had there and the fact that I knew most of the boys receiving awards.

What do you do for fun in your spare time? I like to hike and take walks in the woods. I love to read and go to the movies, but my favorite thing is time with friends and family.

What is your favorite book? I love anything by Stephen King, and really liked 11/22/63. Older books of his I loved were The Shining, The Gunslinger Series, and The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon.

What is your favorite movie/TV show? My all time favorite movie is The Wizard of Oz. I don't have a favorite TV show right now, but have always enjoyed the Star Trek series, Fringe, and X-Files types of shows.

What was your best vacation? One February vacation about 5 – 7 years ago, our family spent a week in NY. It was unseasonably warm after a few big snowstorms the week before, so we got to spend a lot of time outdoors. The boys found an old runner sled on top of a trash pile and we took it to Central Park where they used it for hours. We walked all over the city. One day we met a police officer in a station across from our hotel who took us on a personal tour of the city, including the Police Museum. He was very affected by the events of 9/11 but his love for his city was touching. We also took the boys to ground zero where a man told them all about the events that day, as well as lots of things about the World Trade Center.

Do you have any words of wisdom to pass on to the Troop 9 scouts and families? Do as much as you can as often as you can together in the troop. There are so many opportunities to make memories and the years fly by!