

**PARENTS:**

**Please make sure to share this Newsletter with your sons!!!**

**~Current Calendar/ Upcoming Events~**

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Feb. 24 – 26   | Camp Nobscot Campout         |
| Mar. 1         | Sky Zone                     |
| Mar. 3, 10, 24 | Merit Badge University       |
| Mar. 8         | Election for Summer Camp SPL |
| Mar. 20        | Committee Meeting            |
| Mar. 31        | Bottle Drive                 |

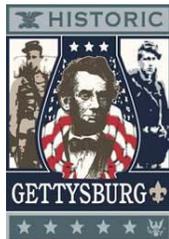
**Happy Birthday to the following:**



|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Dan MacDonald | Feb. 3  |
| Matt Neville  | Feb. 7  |
| Kathy Kelley  | Feb. 16 |
| Brendan Pike  | Feb. 21 |
| Mike Dwyer    | Feb. 22 |
| Peter O'Hare  | Feb. 23 |
| Evan Munger   | Feb. 27 |

**Troop 9 to visit Weymouth sites at Gettysburg**

The American Civil War started in April 1861. Young men from Weymouth volunteered for the Union Army and filled the ranks of **Company H, 12th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.**



The Battle of Gettysburg proved to be the most important battle of the Civil War. It was fought in central Pennsylvania on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 1863. There were 50,000 casualties from this battle. Company H of the 12th Mass was there, fighting on Seminary Ridge against Iverson's North Carolina Brigade on July 1, and helping to repulse Pickett's Charge on Cemetery Ridge July 3.

Troop 9 will be traveling to Gettysburg April 14 to 18th, 2012 (149 years after the battle). This tour will include the 10 mile Billy Yank Hike, the 7 mile Johnny Reb Hike, the 5 mile Gettysburg Town Hike, and a visit to President Eisenhower's farm. We will visit the famous landmarks of Little Round Top, Devil's Den, Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill, Culp's Hill, The Peach Orchard, The Wheatfield, and the Lutheran Seminary. We will hike across the field of Pickett's Charge and then view that same field from the monument of the 12th Massachusetts. Make plans now to come and see the most inspiring battlefield in North America.

**Gettysburg Info**

Here are some of the details for our Gettysburg trip:

- Cost is approximately \$110 to include travel expenses, food costs, admissions to Eisenhower Farm and Visitor Center shows
- The Gettysburg Historic Trails patch consists of 5 segments (1 for each hike, 1 for the Eisenhower Farm and 1 for the Visitor's Center). You will get the segments for what you complete. There is also a Gettysburg Historic Trails medal that involves answering specific questions for each patch segment and performing a ceremony with a newspaper article.
- Proposed Itinerary:
  - Sat April 14 leave 7 AM, one stop, arrive by 4 pm. Auto tour overview of battlefield, ending at Devil's Den and Round Top Area, then head to St. James Scout cabin.
  - Sun April 15, Billy Yank trail hike (10 miles). Visitor's Center
  - Mon April 16, Gettysburg town hike (~3 miles) and shopping in morning. Visitor's Center, Eisenhower Farm at 3:30 pm, Devil's Den/Round Top revisit in afternoon
  - Tues April 17, Johnny Reb trail hike (6 miles), Soldier's Cemetery Ceremony
  - Wed April 18 return to Boston

**Camp Nobscot**

The Camp Nobscot campout on February 24-26 includes a half mile hike from the parking lot through woods, over a river and up a hill to the cabin. Presuming there will be snow and ice by then, everyone should have appropriate footwear (NO sneakers) and be prepared to hike. It is strongly recommended that participants pack their gear in backpacks or duffel bags that they can wear over their shoulders so to keep their hands free. Suitcases and trashbags filled with gear will not be permitted on this trip.



**Troop 9 Facebook Page**

If you have information, pictures, or videos to share on the Troop FB page, please send it to Dennis Rush or see him at the troop meeting.

## **POND PLAIN HALL UPDATE**

Currently, Pond Plain remains closed to all activities. Pond Plain has recently received from the insurance company an estimate of payment for the restoration of the hall. Pond Plain hopes to secure a contractor in the very near future. I will keep you up to date as more information comes available. In the meantime, Troop 9 will meet on a regular basis at the Bean Post unless otherwise noted. Thank you all for your understanding.

Tim Barry  
Committee Chairman

## **Dues Payments**

For those scouts who have not yet paid their dues, please see/call Tricia Conway or Phil Barthel as soon as possible to discuss payment arrangements.

## **HIGH ADVENTURE 2013??**

If you are at least 13 years old and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade now, and you want to do something exciting, then it is time to get a group of your fellow scouts together and start talking to Phil about a High Adventure trip for next year. Between the four national High Adventure bases, dozens of Council bases and hundreds of commercial outfitters, an awesome High Adventure trip is out there waiting for the scouts of Troop 9.

## **Ask Andy Rule No. 44**

Never argue with idiots. They'll drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.

## **Advancements:**



Be sure to congratulate the following scouts:

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Colin Denizkurt | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class |
| Evan Bekerian   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class |
| Bradley Davis   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class |
| Sean O'Connell  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class |

## **Summer Camp Info**

Due to SkyZone on March 1, the election for Summer Camp SPL will take place on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Scouts interested in running need to let Phil know by 11:59PM on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Troop 9 camp dates are Sunday, July 1 to Saturday, July 7. Fees for Summer Camp are \$325 if paid by May 15<sup>th</sup> or \$340 after May 15<sup>th</sup>.



## **Scoutmaster Minute**

For those who don't know, I am an Eagle Scout from Troop 9. Shortly after starting college, my scoutmaster asked me to come back to Troop 9 to work with scouts on their final steps toward their Eagle Scout. I said yes, became an assistant scoutmaster and just got more involved as the years went by. To this day, I have never regretted that decision.

In my junior year of college, something happened to reassure me that the scouting program was worth my time and effort. A good friend of mine and her father were killed by a drunk driver as she went home to Vermont on winter break. One of the first cars to stop was full of scouts and an adult leader on their way to a ski trip. They provided first aid and comfort to my friend's mother and younger sister until professional help arrived.

Being a member of the Boy Scouts, whether as a scout or a leader, we will be tested with trials and tribulations (peer pressure, things don't go as planned, dealing with pigheaded scouts or leaders, etc) and there comes a time where each of us needs to decide how to handle these trials and tribulations. Quitting and walking away from them is a lot easier than hanging in there and dealing with them. However, in my opinion, the good things in life are rarely found the easy way.

Several times over the years as frustration boils over for one reason or another, I find myself asking if it is still worth it to be a scout leader. Each time I ask myself why I am still doing this scouting thing, I think back to my time as a scout, then to that car of scouts on the road in Vermont, and then to the scouts and adults in Troop 9, and each time, I decide it is worth it.

*Phil Barthel, Scoutmaster*