



POND PLAIN HALL UPDATE: Jan. 18, 2012

I would like to give everyone a report as to where we stand with the temporary closing of our meeting place – Pond Plain Hall.

I have been in close contact with Pond Plain hall president, Bill Taylor, concerning the future of Pond Plain. The hall is closed for now due to the request of the insurance company while it determines what the cost will be to repair the roof and the structure of the hall. Safety is the word as we move forward.

In the meantime, Phil and I along with other adults have been in contact with other possible sites to accommodate our Troop while we wait for Pond Plain to be repaired. We have had the help of Councilors Mike Smart and Ed Harrington in this search. Unfortunately the halls we have looked at are too small to accommodate our large Troop. Never in all the years with Troop 9 did I think that having so many scouts and adults would turn out to be a problem. But this is still a good problem to have.

Also, Pack 9, and several groups who rent the hall have been affected by this situation.

This past Monday there was a Pond Plain board meeting and it revealed that they expect the insurance company to come in with the projected costs less 10% hopefully by the end of this week. One thing is for sure, we are looking for at least eight weeks of being unable to use the hall. Please excuse us as we sometimes seem out of sorts during this trying time. Our schedules will be very flexible to say the least. In the meantime though, we still plan to keep Troop 9 active and strong in our community.

I will ask you all one thing: if you have any ideas about where we can meet, or have any contacts we can speak to, please pass your ideas to me via email at tbarry3076@aol.com. If you have any questions, by all means email me with your questions and I will respond to you.

Thank you for all your understanding. I will keep you updated as information comes along.

Yours in Scouting,
Tim Barry
Committee Chairman

~~Current Calendar/ Upcoming Events~~

Jan. 27 – 29	Camp Massasoit Campout
Feb. 4	Klondike Derby
Feb. 22 – 23	CoCo Key Overnight
Feb. 24 – 26	Camp Nobscoot Campout

	<u>Happy Birthday to the following:</u>	
	Brian Willis	Jan. 7
	Bill MacDonald	Jan. 9
	Mike Willis	Jan 16
	PHIL BARTHEL	Jan. 17
	Matt Otero	Jan. 18
	Colin Milch	Jan. 19
	Dr. Jaklitsch	Jan. 27
Ron Zooleck	Jan. 28	

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 7th 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.

WINTER CAMPING

Soon, we will be heading out on the first of our two winter “camping” trips. Our “camping” accommodations will be cabins but scouts who **are prepared**, can opt to set up a tent or if there is enough snow, can build a snow shelter to stay in. To sleep in a tent or a shelter in the winter, scouts will need to demonstrate that they have the knowledge to do so safely. Having appropriate gear is secondary to knowing what you are doing. Check out your scout handbook and pay attention during the winter camping skills to gain the knowledge.

We will spend most of the day outdoors, so scouts will absolutely need appropriate footwear, hats and gloves/mittens. A midnight hike is being planned for Camp Massasoit.

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.

SUMMER CAMP SPL

Even though it is still January and winter has not really arrived yet, scouts need to start thinking about Summer Camp and who they want to be their Senior Patrol Leader there. Troop 9 will be holding its Summer Camp SPL election on March 1st and any scout interested in running must talk with Phil no later than Thursday, February 16th.

News- and Noteworthy

Congratulations to Justin Crisafulli for becoming Lodge Chief of OA. On Monday, January 9th, Justin was honored for attaining the position of Tisquantum Lodge Chief in the Order of the Arrow. Be sure to congratulate him on this achievement.

CoCo Keys Overnight

Feb. 22nd to 23rd is an overnight trip to CoCo Keys Water Park in Danvers for Troop 9 and Pack 9 scouts. The cost is \$40 per person and includes entrance to the waterpark, Pizza dinner, overnight accommodations on the floor of the ballroom, evening snack, and breakfast of cinnamon rolls and juice. Please contact Kathy Kelley if you are interested.

Binders

Please see or call (781-337-4028) Carrie MacLean if you need a 3-ring binder for your scout book or any project. Sheet protectors are available too if you need them. Most binders are white with a see-thru presentation front cover and have two inside pockets.

Volunteers Needed Sunday!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help move rummage, etc. from upstairs to downstairs at PPIA from 10:30 to 11:30 on Sunday. Scouts must be accompanied by a parent.

At least once or twice a week I check various scouting websites, blogs and forums for information to keep updated on scouting news, issues and changes. I encourage you to check out random troop websites to see what scouts are doing in other parts of the US, and even what other local troops are doing. If you do, I think you'll find yourself doing what I do, comparing that troop with Troop 9 to see how our program stacks up. It is a worthwhile endeavor, especially when you like something another troop is doing and then you give it a shot with Troop 9.

The blogs and forums I visit have hundreds of scout leaders sharing stories, advice, ideas news and opinions. Some of the stuff is truly helpful while some is completely insane. I tend to focus more on the helpful stuff, but I will check out the other stuff for a laugh and to give thanks that that person is not in Troop 9. One of the blogs I regularly visit is called "Ask Andy" in which Andy answers questions asked by leaders, parents and scouts and posts observations and random thoughts which he titled "Rules." I thought I would end my minute with two of his rules I found interesting:

Rule 52 "Conscience is what you do when nobody's looking."

Rule 47 "The probability that your Scoutmaster happens to be looking your way is directly proportional to the stupidity of what you're doing at that moment."

Phil Barthel, Scoutmaster

