

TIMES

May 2005

188

TROOP

BDSR BOUNDARY TRAIL

One of Troop 188's High Adventure trips in 2005 will be backpacking along the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon. To prepare for that trip a preliminary backpacking trip was included in the troop calendar.

The weekend of May 13-15 participants of the Oregon trip and several other troop members gathered together for a hike around the Boundary Trail at Ben Delature Scout Ranch. Scouts and adults got an opportunity to check out camping gear, cook trail meals, and work on physical conditioning during the 10 mile hike in some very nice terrain.

Two groups were organized for separate camping, but all did stay together during the day while hiking. The trail has many interesting features to encounter. For instance, in spite of starting and ending in the same location there always seems to be more uphill trail than downhill.

Even though the Spring Camporee snow made that camping experience like another Klondike, it also provided plenty of water sources for our weekend drinking and cooking needs. However, in one instance the abundance of water provided a very exciting adventure Saturday morning. The Elkhorn Creek is the major body of flowing water in the Ranch. During the summer months its flow slowly dwindles so it can be leaped across, especially with drought of the past several years. This year the runoff from the recent snow and rain has the creek out of its banks. The Boundary trail crosses the creek twice. The group arrived at the first crossing and discovered the bridge was damaged and partially submerged. So the boots came off for most of the travelers to forge the raging waters. Some of the scouts decided the very cold water was not worth that adventure and inched their way across the tilted and creaking bridge. All survived without incident, but some were more invigorated than others from the bathing. Most were delighted the second crossing had that bridge in good order.

The weekend weather was as good as it gets for backpacking. A few frost points at night and mild days for hiking. Friday night star gazing was spectacular after the moon set. A few more outings like this and we'll be ready for Oregon!

— Gene Whitney

Thank you all for supporting the Troop 188 Times newsletter with articles and photographs over the last couple of years. I hope that you will continue to support Tom Yasumura in the same way as he takes over the reins of this project. . . Colleen Martin

WELCOME TO OUR NEW
SCOUTMASTER MATT ROSING
AND OUR NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
RICH NASH



scoutmaster's

corner



CAMP LARAMIE PEAK

Congratulations:

- Ryan Nash & Daniel Kotsides for completing their Ordeal in the Order of the Arrow
- Eric & Matt Rosing for becoming Brotherhood members in Order of the Arrow
- And a special congrats to Gage Waldron for obtaining his Eagle Rank
- Nic Bastian & Eamonn Martin on their graduation from FCHS

As many of you know, tonight's Court of Honor is the last for me as Scoutmaster. It has been a fun 7 years, watching the troop grow, and seeing scouts progress from Scout to Eagle. I have no doubt that Matt will do an excellent job with the boys, and with the program.

The troop has always been fortunate to have a group of adult leaders who were willing to jump in and assist in whatever capacity was needed. I expect that this will continue, and even if the Troop doesn't grow in number, at least it will continue to prosper for a long time to come. In a time when the Boy Scouts have taken numerous blows in the media I applaud what these volunteers have accomplished. I especially want to thank Terry Martin, for all that he has done, the guidance, the inspiration, and all the free embroidery.

When I took the position as Scoutmaster, I had no idea what lay ahead. A lot of what was done was "on the fly" or "trial and error". It gave me the opportunity to interact with my own son in a way I am not sure I would have, had it not been for Boy Scouts. During this time, as I watched the boys grow, I have grown myself. I have a better understanding of what Boy Scouts is all about. I have developed friendships that will continue, and I leave feeling that I have had a positive impact on a few boys, who it turn will turn out to be better men.

So as I leave tonight, even though it may be difficult, I leave satisfied. Satisfied in what the troop has become, and satisfied with where it is headed. I thank you all for that opportunity.

— Norm Bastian

Seventeen years ago when I started in scouting, a scouter who I had come to respect and had become good friends with, gave me a card with an inscription on the back. It read:

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different, because I was important in the life of a boy."

Thank you for allowing me to spend time with your sons, and hopefully making a difference. Yours in Scouting — Terry Martin

FULFORD CAVE

Eagle County, CO

"Caveman Patrol"

On the morning of Saturday the 23rd of April, 6 boys and 6 adults headed out of the Linton parking lot heading to Fulford Cave near Eagle, CO. The drive was very easy due to the lack of traffic. It took less than three hours to drive across the state. We arrived so early that we got to Wendy's to eat lunch before it was even open. We stood around and talked and waited for a 7th adult who was coming to join us from Grand Junction. After a delicious meal, we headed South up a valley towards the Fulford campground.

As we headed up the road, we noticed that there was much more snow than expected. In fact there was too much to even get to the closest campground to the cave because the road was impassable. We pulled into the muddy parking lot to find that most of the campground was covered in one to two feet of snow. We were looking at a very small campsite on a hill when someone in the only snow-free campsite realized we were Boy Scouts. He explained that the campsite was that of another Boy Scout troop that was currently in the cave. That troop planned on leaving after they got back from the cave. The adult watching their camp let us set up our tents so that we could have the site when their troop left. This worked out perfect and we had a great, dry campsite to look forward to when we got back. After partially establishing our campsite, we headed out on our long hard hike up to the cave.

The hike wasn't that great of a time because we had to "posthole" our way to the cave with only small areas of solid ground. This proved difficult for many due to the difficulty of hiking. After almost an hour we got to the campsite we planned on staying at, but we were only a little over half way there. Going up the final stretch of trail was difficult as well because of the deep snow conditions. The last couple hundred feet was probably the worst because of the steep incline. We got to the entrance and met the troop that was allowing us to use their campsite. We were then ready to go into the cave.

Jeff Topolski describes the entrance as "a pretty small pipe thing that leads down pretty far into the cave." That is a pretty accurate description of the entrance because it wasn't a very big opening as you may think a cave would have. The pipe thing, or culvert, had a ladder with a rope to help you down. A lot of the ladder was covered in snow and ice which made the decent harder. Some of the rungs were even broken. After crawling down this 30 foot culvert you come out into a fairly large room coated with ice.

If you didn't pay attention you could have fallen on the slippery black ice. Luckily the people coming out of the cave warned us of this hazard. This room had the famous

large icicles that we came to see. I didn't, and I don't think many appreciated the large ice structures until coming out. When you first come into the cave, your eyes aren't adjusted to the dim light and that makes it difficult to see. After everybody came in we proceeded into the cave.

The first large room we visited was called the Breakdown Room. This was a very large room that had a lot of broken rock that had fallen off the ceiling over the years. We stopped and waited for everyone to catch up because of the slippery ascent up in to the room. At that point we decided to turn off all of our light to see just how dark it is in a cave. We then proceeded with our caving adventure.

After meandering through many small passage ways we ended up back in the breakdown room, but this time at the top of it. We were heading toward the Attic Room. This is where the "teamwork" we had talked about earlier came in. We had to spot our way up to the Sacrifice Room. It was called the Sacrifice room because there was a large rock that looked like a sacrifice stone.

We then crawled down a small tunnel, seeing some cool stalagmites and stalactites, got to a steep incline leading to a rope going up about ten feet up. This was where some of us freaked out. Our guide got up there easily and so did Matt, but when Gage went up and nearly fell, a lot of us freaked out and decided we didn't want to put ourselves in danger to see the attic room. Nathan described the attic "a big chamber with a high ceiling that has a tunnel leading to a room with some moon milk in it." Moon milk is a milky substance that looks cool but you don't want to touch it or else it will come down and ruin the formation, and it will also get particles in the air. The only ones that went to the attic were our guide, Matt, and Nathan.

There was a series of difficult areas to climb down to get down to the underground river and the way out. That is when I really saw the most teamwork. It was pretty hard and was scary at times. We climbed up the underground river. That was an interesting experience. We then crawled up a passage and before we know it we were back to the entrance. We climbed out and saw the light of day again. We had spent over five hours in the cave. The time flew. We proceeded to cut down the hike time by going down a slide that was at a very steep angle all in the snow. The slide was several hundred feet down. We cut the 30 minute hike to about 3 minutes.

We got to camp and had a delicious dinner at about 10:00 at night provided by Mr. Keen. It was great. We then got bed very late. The drive down was fairly snowy but was just as fast as driving up.

The scouts that attended were Nathan Keen, Jeff Topolski, Matt Collins, Gage Waldron, Aaron Canney, and me (John Heikes.) Mr. Keen and Mr. Heikes also attended.

We want to thank our cave guide and Eagle Scout, Randy Macan for a wonderful caving experience and for getting us into the cave and back out safely.