

The Voyager



www.vac-bsa.org

Volume 12, Issue 1

Winter 2006

ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER SET FOR JANUARY 28

The Voyageurs Area Council Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner is scheduled for January 28, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel in Duluth. **Corrine Campbell** will serve as chairperson for this year's Annual Recognition Dinner.

The Annual Recognition Dinner is our opportunity to recognize those Scouters who have made 2005 so successful for the Voyageurs Area Council.

The Council Annual Meeting will be held at 5:00 PM prior to the dinner. The Annual Meeting will also be held at the DECC.

Randy Olson will chair the 2005 Silver Beaver Selection Committee. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest award a Council can award to local volunteers and is presented at the Annual Dinner.

The Council will also recognize District Award of Merit recipients for all Districts throughout the Council, new James E. West Fellows, and the chairmen of the various events.

A sign-up form for the dinner can be found on page 2. For more information on the Council Annual Recognition Dinner, contact the Council Service Center.

AMAZON ADVENTURE! 2006 CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP

Get Ready for out of this world fun at our 2006 Cub Scout Summer Camp Program "Amazon Adventure"

You are crossing the old swinging bridge, when suddenly out of the corner of your eye, you see the ropes of the bridge start to unravel. Behind you the planks of the span are coming loose as it untwines. In a split second, the planks start to fall into the torrent of the river below you. Then, just ahead you see a long vine hanging down just above the bridge. Rushing to get to the vine and swinging to safety, you trip. The "Golden Object" from your pocket falls loose and bounces once on the still taut bridge planks before you. As you are reaching for the vine, you put your other hand out and try to grab the "Golden Object," leap for the vine and swing to safety.....

You won't want to miss a glittering fun-filled minute of this year's Day

Camp program. And it is all coming your way this summer to a spot near you! But today is the night to start your plans in motion. Yes sir, plan right now to be on hand for your adventure Day Camp. Celebrate all the fun, all the adventure and all the excitement of the Amazon. That is right, it is all there for you to enjoy.

Day Camps are being organized in every District of the Council. We also are offering several new camps this summer. July 12 offers "**Sleep with the Otters**" overnighter at the Great Lakes Aquarium; August 3 is "**Snooze at the Zoo**" overnighter at the Lake Superior Zoo; and August 5-6 is "**Cardboard Boat Family Camp**" at Camp Horace Johnson. Look for these camps and many others when the Day Camp brochure comes out in late February. For a list of all Day Camps being offered this summer, see page 5.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Eagle's Nest.....	2
Memorials.....	2
Religious Awards.....	2
Red Lantern Awards.....	2
Merit Badge Camp.....	2
Commissioner's Corner.....	3
Wood Badge for the 21st Century.....	3
Adult Leader Awards.....	3
Boy Scout Leader Basic Training.....	4
Summertime Pack Award.....	4
Spring Webelos Action Camp.....	5
High Adventure Treks.....	5
A Scout is Reverent.....	6
District News	
North Star.....	6
Great Bear.....	8
Wah Da Bong.....	9
Gitche Gumee.....	10
Sleeping Giant.....	11
Paul Bunyan.....	12
Appelget.....	14
North Border.....	15
Upcoming Council Events.....	16

EAGLES' NEST

We are proud to announce that the following Boy Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Voyageurs Area Council since September 2005:

Frederick Sproat	S0009	Duluth
Karsten Hoyal	S4144	Nashwauk
Ian Sylvester	S0167	Grand Marais
Joseph Young	S0180	Moose Lake
Chris Bonderson	S4020	Nashwauk
Justin Emmert	S0202	Superior
Lance Hovis	S0171	Cloquet
Paul Mueller	S0171	Cloquet
Victor Tobias	S0171	Cloquet
Brendan Gorman	S0342	Ashland
Mark Hagemann	S0323	Hurley
Joseph Jendrusina	S0337	Bessemer
Kyle Cottingham	S0189	Mora
Jeff Olson	S0189	Mora
Scott Olson	S0189	Mora
Edward Jones	S4150	Ranier
Thomas Anderson	S0162	Duluth
Scott Sowers	S0162	Duluth
Matthew Torvinen	S0162	Duluth
Roy Shi	S4023	Bemidji

We congratulate these fine young men on earning Scouting's highest honor.

RELIGIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following Scouts for earning their religious award.

God and Me

Kristian Alarcon Tower

God and Family

John Zmyslony Moose Lake

Jonathan Langl Hinckley

Sam Anderson Carlton

Tyler Kinsman Barnum

MERIT BADGE CAMP SCHEDULED

The annual Merit Badge Camp has been scheduled for June 24-25 at Camp Horace Johnson near Duluth. Merit badges *being considered* this year include: Camping, Canoeing, Cooking, Electricity, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, First Aid, Forestry, Metalwork, Nature, Pioneering, Plumbing, Photography, Rowing, Railroad, Wood Carving, and Woodworking. The goal of the Merit Badge Camp is to allow Scouts to start earning the merit badge selected. If they have already started or partially completed the merit badge, they may be able to complete it on this weekend. The program will begin at 9 AM on Saturday and will conclude at 2:30 PM on Sunday.

Scouts must be approved to participate by either their Scoutmaster or Troop Advancement Chair. Scouts must pre-register through the Council Service Center. *Registration packets will be distributed in April.* Expected cost \$15. Contact the Merit Badge Camp Director, **John Werner**, at 218-727-0813 for more information.

MEMORIALS

The Voyageurs Area Council Tribute Fund is a program through which donors may acknowledge a friend, relative, or business associate in the form of recognition or congratulations or as a memorial in the time of sorrow.

The Voyageurs Area Council has received the following memorials:

IN MEMORY OF DR. CHAS BAGLEY

Richard C. Olson

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS GROTH

Carole McNeil-Bell

IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE JOHNSON

William Betzler

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY KREAGER

Richard C. Olson

IN MEMORY OF LESTER MARSHALL, JR

Robert & Barbara Benson

Susan Claron

Betty Davis

IN MEMORY OF STEVE PETERSON

Pat & John Lee



RED LANTERN AWARD

Congratulations to **Margaret Fairbanks** and **Bill Weis**, who are the latest recipients of the Council Red Lantern Award.

Margaret helped organize Venture Crew 252, sponsored by American Indian Youth Council, Cass Lake.

Bill helped organize Venture Crew 286, sponsored by Brouse, Woodke & Meyer, PLLP.

Congratulations to Margaret and Bill for the great work they have done organizing these new units and providing the Venturing program to youth in the Voyageurs Area Council.

2006 Annual Meeting & Dinner
Saturday, January 28, 2006
Radisson Hotel, Duluth, MN

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ reservations at \$21.00 each for the 2006 Annual Meeting and Recognition Banquet.

Unit # _____ District _____

Executive Board Member _____

Names of those attending: _____

Mail to: Voyageurs Area Council, 3877 Stebner Road, Hermantown, MN 55811

THE VOYAGEUR

Published by

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Voyageurs Area Council Officers

Dave Choquette - President

Rock Gillson - Commissioner

Loren Stach - Scout Executive

Al Braff - Editor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I would like to thank each unit and member for all they did to make

2005 a Terrific Year! We had a fantastic popcorn sale and encourage anyone that needs popcorn to check with the office. The School Night for Scouting events were outstanding and we appreciate the extra efforts each person made to extend Scouting to all levels of youth. As always, there is room for more, so continue to invite new youth to Cub, Troop and Venture meetings--all we need to do is ask. Program was phenomenal! The WAC camps were a tremendous success with camping introduction to a number of Webelos; while the camporees were well attended and extended opportunities for Scouts to test their skills. Units continue to offer camping opportunities, as well as the District and Council.

2006 brings new challenges and we encourage all units to be prepared. It is very important to recharter on time, and extend the Scouting invitation to other youth. It would be nice to have a 100% *Boys' Life*



Commissioner's Corner

Rock Gillson
Council Commissioner

Council, so "Do Your Best!" Be sure to schedule your FOS presentation during January, February, or March. This is important support for the programs that Scouting offers. Spring Training will be happening in Districts, it is a good way to make sure that each adult leader is ready and prepared. With all details in order, take time to review, qualify, and file for a Quality Unit. Quality Units have strong programs--why not make every unit Quality? Program is an instrumental tool for success, so participate in unit events and prepare for District activities such as Klondike Derby and Expo.

Scouting has extraordinary programs for youth and I ask you to offer it to every youth. Not every boy will reach the Eagle summit, but providing them a chance and a place to grow in self confidence, learning the importance of community responsibility, and a respect for a higher being is a powerful tool that youth can use forever. Thank You for taking the time to provide youth with the tools for Life, by creating the spirit to keep Scouting burning for years to come!

On the Trail,

Rock

WOOD BADGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The next Wood Badge for the 21st Century Course (for all Scout leaders) will be held in January 2007 at the Charles L. Somers High Adventure Base near Ely, Minnesota.

What is Wood Badge? Some people have described it: "It's fun", "It's a learning experience", "It's outdoor skills", "It's a motivational experience", and "It's a tool". Wood Badge was originally presented by Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder, as a means of strengthening and preserving the Scout movement in each country. It is the oldest and most advanced form of training available to Scout leaders.

Its object is to demonstrate, in a practical way, the aims and methods of Scouting and to develop Scout spirit through a program of activities.

Wood Badge courses in the United States are conducted by the Boy Scouts of America to provide this

advanced type of leadership development. Each participant learns by doing hands-on activities and sharing ideas with other participants. Highly qualified and trained Scouters serve as staff members.

Applications and a brief explanatory video are available at the Council Service Center. For more information call the Service Center at 218-729-5811, or the 2007 Wood Badge Course Director, **Tom Meyer** @ 218-722-9163.



ADULT LEADER AWARDS

The following Scout Leaders have earned training awards:

Cubmaster Award

Lois Averill North Border

Den Leader Award

Scott Byykkonen North Star

David Patnaude North Star

Webelos Leader Award

Scott Greaves North Star

Todd Glen Paul Bunyan

Jerry Richards Paul Bunyan

Jim Glaser North Border

Cub Scouter Award

Donna Armstrong Great Bear

Debra Holman Paul Bunyan

Brenda Long North Border

Scoutmaster's Key

Matt Coughlin Sleeping Giant

Boy Scouting Training Award

Daniel Jordan Sleeping Giant

Owney Koski Sleeping Giant

Bruce Larson Sleeping Giant

Frank Pezzutto Sleeping Giant

Darwin Rasmussen Sleeping Giant

Commissioner's Key

Ted Peterson Great Bear

Arrowhead Honor

Ted Peterson Great Bear

Boy Scout Leader Basic Training with Outdoor Leader Skills

The Boy Scout Leaders Basic Training with Outdoor Leader Training Skills, which will be held April 22-22 at Camp Horace Johnson, is part of the Adult Leader Training program of BSA. This training program is open to all registered adult leaders including Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members.

New Leader Essentials - Friday night 7- 9 pm is required training for all adult leaders regardless of position. This is a one-time training, so *if you have* taken it at a previous course you do *not need* to take it again.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training - Saturday, 8:30 am - 5:15 pm is for all Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters and is required along with the *New Leader Essentials and Outdoor Leader Skills* to wear the **Trained** emblem.

Troop Committee Training - Saturday 8:30-11:30 am is required for all Troop Committee members who are not Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters. This course along with the *New Leader Essential* marks a committee member as **Trained**.

Outdoor Leadership Skills Training - Saturday 6:30 pm - Sunday 4:00 pm - this course is required for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmaster to be **Trained**. It is highly recommended for Webelos Leaders and Assistants, Venture Crew Leader and Assistants as well. The course is designed to cover all outdoor skills a Scout encounters achieving the First Class Rank.

Cub Scout Packs that send a representative to the Outdoor Leadership Skills Training are given credit for attending **BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Out-**

door Orientation). BALOO training is required before Packs can conduct independent camping programs.

What to Bring: Boy Scout Handbook (if you have one), pocket knife, insulated mug, notebook, writing utensil, sleeping gear for indoor bunks or your own tent if you prefer outdoors. Anticipate MN weather and bring appropriate outdoor wear.

Facilities: The training will be held at Camp Horace Johnson. The lodge has electricity and heat. Water is hand pumped and bathroom facilities are an outhouse. You are welcome to tent camp or bunk inside the lodge at Horace Johnson (no charge). The bunks do not have mattresses.

Registration and Cost: Cost for the weekend is designed to cover the cost of food and printing (pay according to the courses you will be taking).

New Leader Essentials:	N/C
Scoutmaster Specific Training:	\$10.00
Outdoor Leader Training:	\$10.00
Troop Committee Training	\$2.00

Registrations can be made through the Voyageurs Area Council Service Center at 3877 Stebner Road, Hermantown, MN 55811. Pre – registration is required by April 12, 2006, but you can “pay at the door”. When you register, identify the sessions you will be attending and meals for which you will be joining us.

NATIONAL SUMMER-TIME PACK AWARD 2006

Cub Scout leader, now is the time to gear up for fun in the sun this summer. By planning just one Pack event during **June, July, and August** your Pack can earn the **National Summertime Pack Award**, a beautiful ribbon for your Pack flag and a certificate. Individual boys can also earn a special Smiling Sun National Summertime Pack Award pin by attending all three Pack events! Complete details will be coming in the Program Kickoff Packets at your district's program kickoff's in May. Don't miss the chance to carry the excitement of Cub Scouting through the whole year!

A Note from:

Northern Tier High Adventure Base

It has come to our attention that several area schools have a Winter Break February 20-24, 2006. The Northern Tier staff can work with your membership to plan a successful winter outing during that time.

Please keep the following points in mind when considering a contingent trip:

- It may be difficult to recruit two adults per crew. Northern Tier interpreters can act as the second adult for your crews. If your contingent travels together you won't need as many adults in transit to the base.
- Northern Tier staff will travel to Duluth to help recruit your contingent. We can make a

follow up trip in January or February to meet with the leaders and youth attending the program.

- The fee for a three-day program (say Tuesday noon to Friday breakfast) would be approximately \$80.00 per person. This would include introduction to dog sledding and two nights out. A two-day program is available for even less.

Let us know how we can help.

Northern Tier National High Adventure Staff - **Joe, Terry, Doug** or **Don** @ (807) 597-5822 or (218) 365-4811.

SPRING WEBELOS ACTION CAMP

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES VISITOR CENTER

MAY 5-7, 2006

Come and join us for a great week-end of fun and activities at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (located off US Highway 2 on County Highway G, 2.5 miles west of Ashland). Camp out with your

fellow Webelos and cook a couple meals over your campfire. Everyone on the committee is working hard to make this year's camp the best yet.

Experience the wonders of camping out in a beautiful setting. Enjoy a nature walk along the boardwalk and rediscover nature and explore a cedar and black ash wetlands. The Visitor's Center will be helping us to provide a wonderful program for you to enjoy. Great surprises await you!



VOYAGEURS AREA COUNCIL High Adventure Treks 2006-2007

Philmont Scout Reservation 2007 - Enjoy this ten-day trek in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on Philmont Scout Reservation located near Cimarron, New Mexico. Approximate Cost: \$1,100. Dates: Late July 2007

Finland Trek - Tour Finland, staying in a youth hostel in Helsinki, camping in a National Park, taking a night ferry ride to Stockholm, and numerous other opportunities. Total cost for this 14-day trek will be approximately \$1,600. Dates: Late July to early August 2006

Isle Royale - Enjoy a 6-day Trek across Isle Royale. Camp and hike in the unique pristine wilderness of Isle Royale National Park. Approximate Cost: \$280.00 Dates: August 2006

Atikokan - Enjoy the unique opportunity to experience life as a 1800's fur trader where your crew will have the option to paddle the eight passenger "canoes du nord" on the historic fur trade routes. Approximate Cost: \$600.00 Dates: August 2007

Bissett - Fly onto a remote lake in Manitoba, Canada for a great wilderness canoeing trip and some of the best fishing in the world. Approximate Cost: \$800.00 Dates: July 2007

Florida Sea Base - Your home for a week will be on a large sailing vessel over 41 feet long. You will be sailing the Florida Keys and have the opportunity to snorkel many reef areas. Approximate Cost: \$950.00 Dates: July 2007

High Adventure Opportunities

I am interested in being part of the following treks:

2006 Finland Trek Isle Royale
2007 Atikokan Bissett Philmont Florida Sea Base

Enclosed is my \$75 Hold-A-Spot fee.

Check one: Scout Venturer Adult

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone # _____

Mail this form along with your \$75 Hold-A-Spot Fee to: Voyageurs Area Council
3877 Stebner Road
Hermantown, MN 55811

2006 CUB SCOUT DAY CAMPS

French Club, Cotton	June 13-14
West Two Rivers	June 13-14
Campground, Mt Iron	
Camp Superior, Ironwood	June 17-18
Carlton Co Fairgrounds	June 20-22
Barnum	
Silver Bay/Two Harbors	June 21-22
Rainy River Community	June 24
College, Int'l Falls	
Prentice Park, Ashland	June 24-25
Lake Bemidji State	June 26-27
Park, Bemidji	
Great Lakes Aquarium	June 29
Sundew Overnight 1	June 29-30
Grand Marais	July 6-7
Itasca Co Fairgrounds	July 10-11
Grand Rapids	
Canal Park 1	July 11-12
Sleep with the Otters	July 12-13
Great Lakes Aquarium	
Fortune Bay Fishing	July 13
Culture Day	
Camp Horace Johnson 1	July 18-20
Pattison Park, Superior	July 22-23
Lake Superior Zoo	July 25
Sundew Overnight 2	July 25-26
Canal Park 2	August 2-3
Snooze at the Zoo	August 3-4
Cardboard Boat	August 5-6
Family Camp	
Harley Nature Center	August 8-9
Solar Cars	
Camp Horace Johnson 2	August 15-17

Minnesota Zoo's Cub Scout/Webelos Day

March 4, 2006 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Do you want a great field trip for your Dan? Come visit the Minnesota Zoo! Wear your Cub Scout/Webelos uniform and get in for \$6.00 per person. Participate in Scout electives/requirements. Earn an exclusive Minnesota Zoo patch by completing an activity packet during your visit.

Dens needed to host achievements/requirements! Those hosting admitted free (limit of five Scouts).

Call (952) 431-9331 for more information.

FALL WAC THANK YOU

A big "Thank You" to whoever turned in a lost pocket knife at the Fall Webelos Action Camp. You made the day for its young owner. "It was a true example of Scout honesty and integrity," said the grateful father.



A SCOUT IS REVERENT

Scout Sunday will be celebrated on February 5, 2006. Scout units that sponsored by churches should consider volunteering to help with the Sunday service. Scouts make excellent ushers and greeters. This would be a great way to increase the visibility of Scouting in your church community.

The Council Service Center Trading Post has religious program covers and program inserts available that especially designed for Scout Sunday for use as bulletin covers or inserts. Contact **Sue** or **Tracy** in the Trading Post to order these items.

NORTH STAR

District Chair	Robert Grytdahl
(H) 218-721-3565	
District Commissioner	Bill Ulvi
(H) 218-525-4353	(B) 218-590-7727
District Director	Barry Schull
(H) 218-349-8018	(B) 218-729-5811
E-mail: bschull@vac-bsa.org	

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 7 Boy Scout Leader Specific Training, Cloquet
- 12 Leaders Roundtable & District Meeting, Service Center
- 17 Recharter Assistance & Turn-in, Service Center

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 3 Community FOS Kick-off Dinner, Northland Country Club
- 4 Ice Fishing Derby, Driftwood Estates, Fish Lake
- 9 Leaders Roundtable & District Meeting, Service Center

MARCH CALENDAR

- 4 Klondike Derby, Cloquet Forestry Center
- 9 North Star District Dinner, Glen Avon Church, Duluth
- 16 Youth Protection Training / Leaders Roundtable & District Meeting, Service Center
- 18 Junior Achievement Monopoly Tournament, Miller Hill Mall, Duluth
- 25 First Aid Merit Badge Camp, St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth (tentative)

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Expo & Pinewood Derby Championship Race, Mariner Mall, Superior
- 4 Life To Eagle Transition Seminar, Service Center
- 13 Leaders Roundtable & District

- Meeting, Service Center
- 21-23 Boy Scout Leader Training & Outdoor Leadership Skills Course, Camp Horace Johnson
- 28-29 North Star District Spring Camporee, Snowflake Nordic Center, Duluth

Scout Expo & Pinewood Derby

The Scout Expo & Pinewood Derby creates a great deal of positive awareness of Scouting, and can be a real fun project for your group. *New this year* we'll be combining the North Star & Gitche Gumee District's Expo event. We hope that every unit in our District will be able to participate. The Expo will be held on Saturday, April 1, at the Mariner Mall in Superior. Packs, Troops, Crews and Posts that participate will receive a Scout Expo ribbon for their unit flag. A special Scout Expo brochure, including booth ideas, Pinewood Derby Championship information and a registration form will be sent to all units in February. To help us in planning the Expo, we ask that you select your booth idea and return the completed registration form at the March 16 Roundtable meeting. For more information contact Chairman- **Scott Tollefson** (218-628-3580).

Please join us for the annual

North Star District Recognition Dinner- Thursday, March 9, 2006

6:00 PM Social - 6:30 PM Dinner

Glen Avon Church

(2105 Woodland Ave., Duluth)

\$12 per person

Please make reservations by 3/1/06.

As part of the program, you can present "Spark Plug" awards to volunteers from your unit that have done much to make Scouting happen this year. Other awards that will be presented include the "Big Paddle", "Big Hat", "Polaris Award" and the **District Award of Merit** - the highest award that can be presented by the District. Nomination forms for any of these awards are available at the Council Service Center, and are available on the website, www.vac-bsa.org

Safe Swim Defense & Safety Afloat Training

- Although winter has only started, summer is just around the corner- and here's a timely reminder: **Dave Blazevic**, Scoutmaster for Troop 13, will be conducting a Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense training program at the April 13

Leaders Roundtable. The training is required for most summer activities involving water. There is no fee to participate. For more information, **Dave** can be reached at 626-3478.

CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP- An Amazon Adventure! - The Day Camp programs are designed to teach skills and develop attitudes that make every Cub Scout more self-reliant and more at home in the out-of-doors. Boys that have completed first, second, third and fourth grade will have FUN! Some of the activities that will be included in the Day Camp programs this year are: Nature, Crafts, Archery, BB Guns, Games, Songs and Cheers, and Skits. Some camps will also offer swimming. Day Camp will provide a memorable experience in the life of every boy that attends.

To help in the planning of the Day Camps, Pack registration forms and fees will be due in the Council Service Center by May 15. Packs may register Cub Scouts after May 15, but the fees will be slightly increased, and participation in camps with attendance limits will likely be unavailable. For those families that need financial assistance with the camp fees, the council is again offering "Camperships" that will help with the camp fees. Campership application forms are available from the Council Service Center or on line at the Council Web Site (www.vacbsa.org).

A packet of information will be mailed to each Cubmaster and Committee Chairperson, and brochures will be mailed to each registered Cub Scout in late February. If you don't receive this information, please contact the Council Service Center to get a copy. It is important that every Pack appoints a Pack Day Camp Coordinator as soon as possible. We can't pass along information to your coordinator if we don't know who they are! As in the past, we are looking for volunteers to staff the

activity areas, which are BB Guns, Archery, Nature, Crafts, Cooking, and Swimming. If you are interested in serving on the Day Camp staff in your area, please contact the Council Service Center (218-729-5811).

Life to Eagle Orientation - The next session will be held on Tuesday, April 4, at the Council Service Center starting at 7 PM. The session is designed to help Star and Life Scouts understand the process of advancing to the rank of Eagle. **Grant Forsyth** and **Morrie Moe** will be leading the discussion, which will include a detailed explanation of how to complete the Life to Eagle Workbook and how to document service project work. This is a great chance for Scouts, parents, Scoutmasters and Troop Advancement Committee members to get answers to their questions about what is ahead.

Order of the Arrow & Summer Camp - Now's the time to schedule unit election! Please contact North Star Chapter Chief **Jesse Mattila** @ 218-724-1708, or Chapter Advisor **Chuck Ensign** @ 218-525-4905 with your election date, time, & location. Another reminder- Webelos to Scout Cross-Over Ceremonies take place January through March. Troop leaders should check with their feeder packs to find out how they can assist with the ceremonies or be a part of their Blue & Gold Banquet. Boy Scout Troops - need help with summer camp plans? If so please contact **Randy Olson** (722-9539). He has promotion materials from several camps. Remember- to earn the Quality Unit Award in 2006, Boy Scout Troops must attend a BSA long-term camp! To become an Arrow-man, Boy Scouts must attend a BSA long-term camp!

Charter Renewal Reminder - Our Commissioner Staff would like to remind all units that their annual charter renewal applications should be completed and turned in to the Council Service Center no later than mid January.

To make it easier, we've schedule a Recharter Party on Tuesday, January 17, 5:30 pm through 8:00 pm at the Council Service Center. If your having trouble- bring your packet, your unit roster, and your unit checkbook to the party. Commissioners will be there to help you complete your packet on a first come, first served basis. The process should take about 15-20 minutes. Who knows, there might even be a piece of pizza and a soda left for you to enjoy.

Roundtable Update! The all leader's Roundtable is a monthly help / information meeting for Den leaders, Webelos leaders, Cubmasters, Scoutmasters and Committee parents that work directly with the boys. The meeting starts at 7PM and is held at the Council Service Center (3877 Stebner Rd., Hermantown). Handouts include Pack & Troop Program Helps, and ideas for helping plan the next months' den, pack and troop meetings, upcoming activities and events. Often we have special guest speakers. Troops - feel free to bring your youth leadership (SPL, ASPL) and your OA members as we have a Chapter meeting at the same time as the Roundtable. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the topics, please feel free to call **David Harper** at 218-525-5877.

January 12 Tax issues related to scouting - Did you know that the cost of your uniforms is deductible on your taxes? Come and find out what other things you can use to reduce the amount of tax you pay (and so reduce your costs in providing the service you do for boys in your troop). A tax consultant will talk to us about deductions and other tax-related issues.

February 9 High Adventure Outings - This is an expansion on the November Roundtable about Okpik. Come with ideas about what your troop has done for High Adventure activities. Have you gone on long hikes? Have you been to Isle Royale with your troop? How about extended BWCA canoe trips? We can give each other ideas of things to try.

March 16 Youth Protection Training - Did you know that all scout leaders should go through the Youth Protection Training every year? This is your

chance – watch the tape and talk about it with other leaders, instead of at home by yourself. You know you'll pay better attention!

April 13 Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat - Are you up to date on all the requirements the BSA has for safe swimming? We need to follow the rules whenever our scouts are in or on the water. This evening will tell you all you need to set up a safe swimming place or a safe boat or canoe trip. It's required every other year for at least one leader on any trip involving water (other than the kind you pour down your throat!).

Friends of Scouting Campaign.

In the months of January, February or March, the North Star district would like to conduct a Family Friends of Scouting (FOS) presentation at your Blue and Gold Banquet, Court of Honor or Parent Meeting. If you have the date when you would like the presentation to be made, please contact Family Friends of Scouting Coordinator, **Sue Mattila** (218-724-1708) as soon as possible.

During the **short** FOS presentation, parents will be asked if they can make a commitment to financially support the Voyageurs Area Council in 2006. It **is not** a high-pressure sales pitch and payment of pledges is not required that evening. The Council will use the money that is contributed to provide support services to your unit. For example – paying for expenses related to roundtables, training sessions, the Council Service Center, Council camps and Council

staff – all of which are in place to help your leadership offer a quality program. If your unit has a high percentage of families that contribute, your unit might also be eligible to earn the "Gold Card" which will entitle your unit to a discount on all purchases at the Service Center.

Fishing Derby - The Cub Scout & Boy Scout Fishing Derby returns this year on Saturday, February 4, at Driftwood Estates on Fish Lake. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (along with their family members) from the North Star District are invited to participate in the event. **Grant Forsyth** is coordinating the derby this year and has some fun programs and prizes lined up. Grant is still looking for some people to help with first aid, judging, etc. If you are available to help, please call him at 218-624-1626.

Promote Day Camp attendance during your Blue and Gold Banquet in February by using the **free** Day Camp place mats available from the council. Your pack will need to determine the number of place mats you will need and order them through the Council Service Center. The place mats will be distributed at the February 9 Roundtable (or picked up at the Council Service Center).

Klondike Derby - The North Star / Great Bear District Klondike Derby is scheduled for Satur-

day, March 4, at the Cloquet Forestry Center. At this time, the facility has been reserved and the mayors have been selected to staff various challenging outdoor stations, but we are still in need of some more assistants. If you'd like to help please contact **Barry** at the Council Service Center. Invite the Webelos to attend as guest of your troop! On March 4 we want to see you and your boys at the Klondike!

LEADER TRAINING Thank You's - A special Thank-you to **Scott Byykkonen** and his staff for the exceptional training programs have been offered to our Cub Scout leaders, Boy Scout leaders, and committee members this fall. If you have unit people that still need training contact Scott or Barry to arrange a special presentation.

Popcorn Sale - Our District Popcorn Chairman, **Pam Evans**, is pleased to announce that the 2005 Trails End Popcorn Sale was a big success. The Scouts in our district sold almost 13,000 containers of popcorn! At this time, we haven't determined the top salesman, but he will be recognized for his achievement at the District Recognition Dinner on March 9. We want to thank every Pack and Troop that participated in the sale – your support of the district and council is greatly ap-

GREAT BEAR

District Chair	Mark Quiram
(H) 218-879-3916	(B) 218-879-2101
District Commissioner	Ted Peterson
(H) 320-233-0215	
Interim District Director	Barry Schull
(H) 218-349-9018	(B) 218-729-5811
E-mail: bschull@vac-bsa.org	

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 5 District Committee / Commissioners Meeting
- 6 FOS Team Meeting
- 7 Boy Scout Leader Training
- 12 All Leaders Roundtable

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 District Committee / Commissioners Meeting

- 3-4 Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Skills Training
- 4 Great Bear / North Star Fishing Derby
- 9 All Leader's Roundtable
- 15 Recharterers Due

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 District Committee / Commissioners Meeting
- 4 Klondike Derby
- 9 District Dinner
- 25 First Aid Merit Badge Camp

OTHER FUTURE EVENTS

- April 1, Expo & Pinewood Derby Championships
- April 21-23, Boy Scout Leaders Outdoor Skills Training
- April 29, North Star Spring Camporee

June 20-22, Cub Scout Day Camp

CONGRATULATIONS GREAT BEAR! YOU ARE A QUALITY DISTRICT!

The Great Bear District earned the 2005 Quality District Award! As of this writing only a couple other Districts in a five state area have earned the distinction. The Quality District Award, like the Quality Unit Award, is based on measurable achievement. Criteria include number of Quality Units, membership growth, unit growth, meeting specified financial goals, Commis-

sioner service, rechartering, District Committee, and Charter Partner visits. Thank you for making it happen, and delivering a *GREAT* program to area youth.

Training - It is that time again for the opportunity to better serve the scouts in your unit! A great way to do that is to be "Trained!" Boy Scout Basic Leader Training will be on Saturday, January 7 in Cloquet. The outdoor portion to Boy Scout leader training will be February 3-4. These trainings are very important for parents/leaders with Scouts crossing over this spring to be better prepared for Boy Scouts. Cub Scout leaders there is good news for you too! The outdoor portion of the Boy Scout leader training will count towards BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) to take your Cub Scout Pack family camping! Please contact **Margi Christofferson** at mchrist452@aol.com or 218/879-4155 for more information.

Klondike Derby - Join us on March 4 at the Cloquet Forestry Center for a winter event unlike any other. The Klondike is an opportunity for Boy Scout patrols and

visiting Webelos to demonstrate their winter Scouting skills. Stations include, ice rescues, first-aid, fishing, a turkey shoot, races, fire-building, lashing, and so much more. Special thanks to **Chris Campbell**, our 2006 Klondike Chair, for organizing the event!

District Committee - We have a few openings in the District Committee and are looking for your help! The commitment would be for one year, with one meeting per month as a committee and special projects (i.e. Scouting for Food Chairman: biggest commitment in the fall for the food drive). If you are interested in getting more information please contact **Barry** at the Council Service Center.

District Dinner - Mark your calendar! Join us on March 9 as we congratulate some of the outstanding Scouters in the Great Bear District. The Dinner will take the place of Roundtable for the month. We are still working out the details, such as the location and menu, but if you have some ideas or suggestions please contact **Mark Quiram** at 218-879-2101, and let him know your thoughts.

Friends of Scouting - The Finance Campaign is off to a great start! Thanks to all who are doing what they can to add that extra commitment to the Scouting Program. Most of the family presentations are scheduled, but if you haven't yet scheduled yours- contact our Family FOS Chair **Melinda Ferrell** @ 218-879-6683, and she'll get you on the calendar.

Expo - Where else can you see units from all over the District, race cars, showcase your unit and learn more about the Scouting program? You guessed it, the Great Bear District Expo! It is on the 1st of April at the Barnum High School. Information will soon be out on booths, Scout Skills Demonstrations, and Pinewood Derby Race times.

Start Thinking Day Camp - Cub Scout Day Camp will be held at Carlton County Fairgrounds again this year! It will be on June 20-22, so mark your calendars! Join us as we have an Amazon Adventure!

WAH DA BONG

District Chairman Pat Madden
(B) 715-561-3434
District Commissioner Todd Reynolds
(H) 715-682-4627 (B) 715-685-5588
Sr District Executive Stephanie DeVlieger
(B) 800-939-5811
Email: stjohno@vac-bsa.org

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 5 Nominations for District Awards due to Judge Madden, Todd Reynolds or Stephanie
- 12 District Dinner, Knight of Columbus, Ironwood, 6 - 9 pm
- 12 Finance Campaign Kick-Off
- 17 HURLEY - Recharter Party **and due date**, Hurley Courthouse, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- 17 ASHLAND - Recharter Party **and due date**, Ashland Presbyterian Church, 7 - 8 pm

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 16 District Meeting, Ashland Presbyterian Church, 7 pm
- 18 Boy Scout Klondike Derby, Ironwood, MI, 9:00 am

MARCH CALENDAR

- 16 District Meeting, Hurley Courthouse, 7 pm
- 18 Spring Scouting for Food Drive

APRIL CALENDAR

- 21-23 Boy Scout Leader Training & Outdoor Training
- 27 District Meeting, Ashland Presbyterian Church, 7 pm
- 29 Expo & District Pinewood Derby, TBA

Events & Information

THANK YOU - To everyone that I have met over the last three months of being around in your area, a big "Thanks!" The welcome that I have received since being transferred to Gitche Gumee & Wah Da Bong District, just warms my heart.

Klondike Derby - Come bring your Webelos and Boy Scout Troop to test their skills and have a great time in the outdoors. The Derby is

set for February 18. Let's all think snow! Preparations are underway and we are looking to having a great time at Norrie Park in Ironwood, MI. Flyers will be sent out with details and directions. This year Webelos are invited to participate. The registration fee will be \$4 for Scouts and \$2 for adults if received in the Council Service Center by January 16, 2006. (Note: Any adults that volunteer to serve, as judges at one of the cities, do not have to pay!). Please send troop number, patrol names, and a roster of Scouts by patrol with your registration fees. There are plans to camp out the night before (the 17th) for those who would like to earn their OA Zero Hero award. For more information contact **Ron Zaleski** at 906/663-4453 or **Stephanie DeVlieger** at the Council Service Center.

District Recognition Dinner - It is the time to give credit where credit is due. The dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ironwood, MI on January 12 at 6PM. The charge will be \$12 per person. Bring your significant other for a great time with Scouters from around the district. You should have received the nomination forms for this year's awards. Please return them by January 5.

OA Elections - Need help with your Order of the Arrow elections? If so please contact **Ron Zaleski** at 906/663-4453 to schedule yours. Remember to earn the Quality Unit Award in 2006, Boy Scout Troops must attend a BSA long-term camp! **Ron** or **Stephanie** will be able to find you some pro-

motional materials for great Scout Camps in the area.

All Leaders Roundtables & District Meetings - Want to know about the upcoming Camporee? How about the Klondike, or the Popcorn Sale, or the dates for next summer's Day Camp? Mark your calendar for the best informational meetings in the District; the All Leaders Roundtable & District Meeting. Meetings rotate between Ashland and Hurley and are at 7PM. Plan to attend- represent your unit and voice your opinion on all matters in the District. Dates & locations this school year:

February 16, Ashland Presbyterian Church

March 16, Hurley Courthouse

April 27, Ashland Presbyterian Church

May 25, Hurley Courthouse

Webelos Action Camp - On the weekend of May 12-14, 2006, join us for a great weekend of fun and activities at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (by Ashland on Hwy. 2). Camp out with fellow Webelos and cook a couple meals over your campfire. **Todd Reynolds** is the Spring WAC Chairman again and is working hard to make this year's camp the best yet. Experience the wonders of camping out in a beautiful setting. Enjoy a nature walk along the boardwalk and rediscover nature and explore a cedar and black ash wetlands. Great surprises await you!

GITCHE GUMEE

District Chair John Nye
(H) 218-398-7592
District Commissioner Lynne Smith
(H) 715-392-6752 (B) 218-728-4293
Sr District Executive Stephanie DeVlieger
(h) 218-624-0904 (B) 218-729-5811
E-mail: stjohanson@vac-bsa.org

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 4 Leader Roundtable (Boy Scout & Cub Scout), United Presbyterian, Superior 5:30 pm
- 9 Scout Swim, Superior High School Pool, 6:45 - 8 pm
- 12 District Leader Meeting, United Presbyterian, Superior 5:30 pm
- 16 Scout Swim, Superior High School Pool, 6:45 - 8 pm
- 19 **Recharter Turn-in & Due Date, WITC 2nd Floor Conference Room, 6 - 8 pm**
- 21 Klondike Derby, Superior School Forest, 9 am
- 23 Scout Swim, Superior High School Pool, 6:45 - 8 pm
- 30 Scout Swim, Superior High School Pool, 6:45 - 8 pm

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Leader Roundtable (Boy Scout & Cub Scout), United Presbyterian, Superior 5:30 pm
- 3 Finance Campaign Kick-Off, TBA
- 9 District Leader Meeting, United Presbyterian, Superior 5:30 pm
- 18 Cub Scout Basic Leader Training, TBA

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Leader Roundtable (Boy Scout & Cub Scout), United Presbyterian, Superior 5:30 pm

- 1 Nominations for District Awards due to the District Committee
- 4-5 Boy Scout Ski & Swim, Ironwood MI
- 9 District Dinner, United Presbyterian, Superior 6 pm
- 18 Spring Scouting for Food Drive

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Scout Expo & Pinewood Derby, Mariner Mall, 9 am
- 5 Leader Roundtable (Boy Scout & Cub Scout), United Presbyterian, Superior 5:30 pm
- 13 District Leader Meeting, United Presbyterian, Superior 5:30 pm
- 21-23 Boy Scout Leader Training & Outdoor Training

Events & Information

THANK YOU - To everyone that I have met over the last three months of being around in your area, a big "Thanks!" The welcome that I have received since being transferred to Gitche Gumees & Wah Da Bong District, just warms my heart.

COMBINED ROUNDTABLES - Starting January 4, we will be having a combined Boy Scout and Cub Scout Roundtable. It will start at 5:30 p.m. and will be at United Presbyterian Church in Superior.

BOY SCOUT KLONDIKE DERBY - The Derby will be held at Superior School Forest this year on January 21. Flyers will be sent out with details and directions.

This year Webelos are invited to participate. The registration fee will be \$4 for Scouts and \$2 for adults if received in the Council Service Center by January 16, 2006. (Note: Any adults that volunteer to serve, as judges at one of the cities, do not have to pay!). Please send troop number, patrol names, and a roster of Scouts by patrol with your registration fees.

DISTRICT RECOGNITION DINNER - The time has come where we give credit where credit is due. The District Dinner is the one place that we can gather and celebrate our past year of Scouting. The dinner this year will be held on March 9 at the United Presbyterian Church in Superior. The charge will be \$12 per person. Please get your nominations in to **Stephanie** by March 1, 2006 for the District Award of Merit, Silver Scouts, and the Unit Award nominees.

OA ELECTIONS - Need help with your Order of the Arrow elections? If so please contact **James Meyer** (722-9163) or **Glen Olson** (722-9539) to schedule yours. James & Glen can also help you find an area summer camp. They have promotional materials from several of

them. Remember to earn the Quality Unit Award in 2006, Boy Scout Troops must attend a BSA long-term camp!

SCOUT EXPO & PINWOOD DERBY - The annual Scout Expo and District Pinewood Derby will be held on April 1, at the Mariner Mall from 9 AM to 4 PM, 8:30 AM for setting up. This year we have invited North Star District to join us on our turf. To race in the Pinewood Derby units will have to have a booth at the event. Boy Scouts, adults, and non-Scouting regulation (Outlaw Division Race) cars will also be eligible to participate in the Pinewood Derby if their unit has a booth at the Expo. Information will be out in February. For more information please contact **Brad Edstrom** at or **Stephanie DeVlieger** at the Council Service Center.

WEBELOS ACTION CAMP - On the weekend of May 12-14, 2006, join us for a great weekend of fun and activities at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (by Ashland on Hwy. 2). Camp out with fellow Webelos and cook a couple meals over your campfire.

Todd Reynolds is the Spring WAC Chairman again and is working hard to make this year's camp the best yet. Experience the wonders of camping out in a beautiful setting. Enjoy a nature walk along the boardwalk and rediscover nature and explore a cedar and black ash wetlands. Great surprises await you!

JANUARY SCOUT SWIM - The last four Mondays in January at Superior Senior High School, we will be holding our District swim

event. The dates are the 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. We have the pool from 7-8 PM. The first three nights of the month we will have instruction. On the fourth Monday we will be having a fun night. Webelos are welcome. Please contact your area Troop for information.

SCOUT SKI & SWIM - The Gitche Gumee District is sponsoring another weekend ski trip. The dates will be March 4 and 5. We will be heading to Ironwood, MI for some skiing and some swimming at Gogebic Community College that evening. There will also be plenty of pizza, free time and hopefully a good nights sleep in the area. After breakfast on Sunday we leave for home. Contact your Scoutmaster for more details.

SLEEPING GIANT

District Chair	Dan Jordan
(H) 218-254-7967	(B) 218-263-5627
District Commissioner	Lorn Richards
(H) (218) 741-1512	(B) 218-741-2260
District Executive	Matthew Bisbee
(H) 218-787-2313	(B) 800-939-5811
E-mail: diznessasusual@hotmail.com	

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 3 Roundtable, Virginia, 7 pm
- 5 Roundtable, Hibbing, 7 pm
- 14 District Recognition Dinner

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 Roundtable, Hibbing, 7 pm
- 4-5 Klondike Derby
- 7 Roundtable, Virginia, 7 pm
- 9 District Commissioner Meeting
- 9 District Committee Meeting

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 Roundtable, Hibbing, 7 pm
- 4 Klondike Derby Back-up Date
- 7 Roundtable, Virginia, 7 pm
- 9 District Commissioner Meeting
- 9 District Committee Meeting
- 11 Merit Badge Extravaganza
- 18 Merit Badge Extravaganza
- 25 Merit Badge Extravaganza

APRIL CALENDAR

- 4 Roundtable, Virginia, 7 pm
- 6 Roundtable, Hibbing, 7 pm
- 13 District Commissioner Meeting
- 13 District Committee Meeting
- 22 Expo

The Fun Roots of Scouting - On **September 23-25, 2005**, 150 Scouts, Venturers, and Adult Volunteers met at West Two Rivers

Reservoir Recreation Area in Mt. Iron to explore the roots of the Scouting movement at the Sleeping Giant Fall Camporee. Units prepared activity stations based on games that Lord Baden-Powell and the first Boy Scouts played at Brownsea Island. A Dutch oven dessert cook-off and AFrame race were huge hits that were topped off by a special campfire. Although liquid sunshine fell from the sky for most of the weekend, it could not dampen the joyful spirits of everyone that participated. A special thanks goes out to **Dave Paa-konen, Rock Gillson, and Chad Buggert**, the rest of the planning crew, and all of the units that attended for making this a Camporee to remember.

New Unit Welcome - We would like to welcome Pack 117 (Cherry/Iron), Pack 122 (Orr), and Pack 171 (Babbitt/Embarrass) to the Sleeping Giant District Family. Congratulations and thank you to all of the volunteers that helped bring Scouting to these areas. If you are interested in bringing Scouting to new areas and earning the William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award, please contact **Matt Bisbee** (218.787.2313) for details.

Sleeping Giant District Enters the Electronic Age - In an effort to increase communication and reduce printing and mailing costs, the District (with your help) will be developing an eNewsletter to be sent out on a monthly basis. Who is this going to be sent to? All Scouting volunteers within the District and any interested parents of Scouts within the District will receive this information. How can you help? To start with, we need every Scouting volunteer's e-mail address so that we can create mail groups. To ensure the security of your e-mail address, we will be sending it BCC. This will eliminate the long list of e-mail addresses that you often see on some e-mails. Send an email with your name, the unit you are in, and your position within the unit or District to: sleepinggiantdistrict@yahoo.com If you have any questions, feel free to call **Matt Bisbee** (218.787.2313).

Good Turn for America - Good Turn for America is a national call to service by the Boy Scouts of America to address the issues of hunger, homelessness, and poor health in our nation. By partner-

ing with respected national service organizations (Habitat for Humanity, The Salvation Army, The American Red Cross, and others), BSA is helping meet the needs of our local communities. Please do your part by logging into www.goodturnforamerica.org and documenting all of those community service hours that your Scouts and Venturers are already doing. You will need a unit ID to create an account. If you do not have one, please call **Matt Bisbee** (218.787.2313) to get it.

See You at the Sleeping Giant District Dinner - The best ever **Sleeping Giant District Volunteer Recognition Evening** will be held on **Saturday, January 14** at the **Messiah Lutheran Church** located in Mountain Iron just off Highway 169. Fellowship will begin at **6:30 pm** with dinner to follow at **7:00 pm**. The early registration deadline was December 22, but it is not too late to attend. Call **Jo Ann Muller** at 218.262.1504 or visit www.vac-bsa.org and download a registration form. Cost is \$8.00 per person. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

New & Improved Klondike Derby - Troop 114 has been extremely busy preparing a Klondike Derby to be remembered! This year, we will have an OVERNIGHT Klondike. Yes, I said overnight! Plan on spending a fun filled and exciting weekend at **Camp Chicagami on February 4-5, 2006**. This event is open to all Boy Scouts. Second year Webelos are encouraged to link up with a Scout Troop. Webelos are encouraged to participate in the activities during the day, but will not be able to spend the night. Early registration is just \$12.00 per person

(\$15.00 per person at the door). Registrations are available at Roundtable, by calling **Matt Bisbee** or the Scout Service Center, or on the Council website (www.vac-bsa.org). Registrations are due by January 25, so hurry.

A Scout is Reverent - Scout Sunday is **February 5**. Unit leaders can work with a local church to have the Scouts help with the service, serve punch, or greet people as they enter. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform to church. This is a great opportunity to remind the community that we are here to serve.

Friends of Scouting Kick-Off - Get ready for the 2006 Friends of Scouting Family Campaign kick-off. We will launch this year's campaign at the January Roundtables. All Sleeping Giant Packs, Troops, and Crews are asked to schedule a Family Friends of Scouting presentation for your units in January, February, or March of 2006. To schedule a presentation, please contact your Unit Commissioner, anyone on the Commissioner Staff, or **Matt Bisbee**. The 2005 FOS Mug was a huge hit and this year's mug is expected to be even more popular. We are also continuing the Voyageurs Area Council tradition of offering a collectable numbered Art Print. Thank you for your help with this vitally important annual effort.

It's Recharter Time! - Recharter packets will be handed out at the January Roundtables. Recharter Nights will be held one hour before the March Roundtables. Bring your completed packets to the recharter nights on **March 2** in Hibbing and **March 7** in Virginia. If you need assistance completing your recharter packet, please con-

tact your unit commissioner or anyone on the commissioner staff. Our goal is 100% on-time recharterers. What better way to start on the Quality Unit 2006 trail. Recharter is also a perfect time to become a 100% Boy's Life unit!

Attention Webelos Den Leaders - It is not too early to start developing a relationship with a local Boy Scout Troop of your choice. Contact the Scoutmaster to arrange for visits to Troop meetings and to plan joint activities. Early planning will increase the number of your 2nd year Webelos that will join Boy Scouts. Contact **Matt Bisbee** or the Scout Service Center if you need Scoutmaster contact information.

Merit Badge Extravaganza is Coming Up - Boy Scout Troops, get ready for the Sleeping Giant District's Merit Badge Extravaganza coming up on **(Saturdays) March 11, 18, and 25**. All three sessions will be at the **Messiah Lutheran Church in Mountain Iron**. This is the perfect opportunity to earn that last merit badge for your rank advancement before Summer Camp. Merit badge counselors are still needed. If you would like to help or have any other questions, contact **Shirley** (218.735.8736) or **Natalie** (218.735.8513).

The Great Sleeping Giant District Get Together - Start getting ready for the largest District Scouting event of the year. **Expo** will be held on **April 22, 2006** in the Thunderbird Mall - Virginia, MN. More information will be distributed at Roundtables and through the new Sleeping Giant District e-Newsletter.

PAUL BUNYAN	
District Chair	Dave Possin
(H) 218-444-4890	
District Commissioner	Lezlie Grubich
(H) 218-444-5566	
Sr. District Executive	Allison Barta
(H) 218-335-6650	(B) 800-939-5811
E-mail: abarta@vac-bsa.org	

- JANUARY CALENDAR**
- 12 Pepfest, Calvary Lutheran Church, 7:00 PM
 - 21 Polar Daze Build Your Own Sled Derby, 1:00 PM
 - 21 District Dinner, Bonanza Restaurant
- FEBRUARY CALENDAR**
- 9 Pepfest, Calvary Lutheran Church,

- 7:00 PM
 - 10-12 Klondike Derby, Buena Vista Ski Hill, Bemidji
- MARCH CALENDAR**
- 2 Recharter Night, Burger King West, Bemidji
 - 9 Pepfest, Calvary Lutheran Church, 7:00 PM

- 11 Scouting for Food
- 18 Scouting for Food

APRIL CALENDAR

- 4 Life to Eagle Class, Duluth
- 8-9 Webelos & Scoutmaster Specific Training & Outdoor Leader Training, Camp Kwitchebelyakin
- 13 Pepfest, Calvary Lutheran Church, 7:00 PM
- 21-23 Spring Camporee
- 29 District Pinewood Derby Race at the Mall

Happy New Year Paul Bunyan Scout District - Where did 2005 go? The "Year of the Dragonfly" really flew by! Our District is growing and getting stronger each year thanks to all the devoted adults in our program. The fun, learning, and fellowship at our monthly Pepfest meetings are successfully flying back to be shared with our units and youth members. Great job everyone! Now it is time to celebrate those successes with our annual District Dinner and bring in the new theme for 2006 on January 21.

District Dinner - Have you registered for the District Dinner yet? You won't want to miss it! This year's "Year of the Dragonfly" these will be celebrated, with a state of the District slide show created by our new District Chair, **Dave Possin**. Plus, as usual, we will have lots of awards, including the honor of awarding some deserving Scout leaders with the District Award of Merit and Silver Scout Awards. This is our night as adult Scouters to celebrate. All leaders in the District should plan to come. We will be at the Bonanza Restaurant in Bemidji. If you didn't receive a registration form via e-mail, please contact the Council office at (800) 939-5811 and ask for **Donna**. Get your registrations in as quick as possible so we can make plans. **Della Hotchkiss** is our District chairman and she has already put together an exciting evening.

2006 Friends of Scouting Campaign - Paul Bunyan District's Friends of Scouting campaign kickoff will be Thursday, January 12. Thank you to everyone for your generosity in 2005. Paul Bunyan

district achieved this goal! **Marie Hamre** and her presenter team for the family campaign did an outstanding job and that put us over the top. **Dan Voss'** guidance also was very helpful with the community goal. Let's do it again! March 15 is this year's District goal date to be done. We can do it!

Polar Daze Build Your Own Sled Derby - January 21 will be a really fun Scouting day. First, the Paul Bunyan Build Your Own Sled Derby staff will once again present a fun day for not only the Scouts of our District, but for all the children of the Bemidji area. Second, we will all enjoy a fun night at the District Dinner. Staff members will arrive at 12:00 Noon to help set up and get organized. The derby registration begins at 1:00 PM. The cost is \$2.00 per child. A lot of Packs and Troops are busy making sleds already, so we are expecting this to be a fantastic event. Special thanks to our dedicated, fun and crazy derby staff.

Scout Sunday - Sunday, February 5 is Scout Sunday. If your unit has not had the opportunity to celebrate this day, consider it for this year. Remember, a Scout is reverent. Contact your church priest, minister, or rabbi today and plan a Scout Sunday with them. Our Council office has available some really nice bulletin inserts that could be distributed in your church that day. Contact the Council Trading Post.

Klondike Derby - Paul Bunyan district is pretty excited about this year's Klondike Derby, which will be held the weekend of February 10-12 at Buena Vista Ski Hill, just outside of Bemidji. What a perfect place to have this event. Troop 80 of Paul Bunyan District is hosting the weekend, and have put together a chilllling program for you. This is the first event that has been e-mailed to all three Districts, via the Klondike Chairman, **Bob Woodke**. If you haven't received your information, you can contact **Bob** at rawoodke@paulbunyan.net

Don't forget Webelos, Boy Scouts and Crew members are welcome.

Recharter Night - It that time again! **March 2**, the dreaded Recharter Night! Actually, Recharter Night is one of the best things that has happened to Paul Bunyan District. It has been a great success for all units. The object of the night is for all units to turn in the completed charters. **Lezlie Grubich** and her commissioners take time to check through each charter to ensure it is correct. Your goal as a unit is to not ignore your charter. Open it up today and get it done. We find that the signatures needed to recharter are the worst nightmare in this process. Don't wait until one day before recharter night to find signatures, because it doesn't happen. Make a goal for yourself to have all the adult applications with signatures done in January and then your charter will be a breeze. If you don't understand it, don't wait! Call **Lezlie** today at (218) 444-5566. She can guide you to success!

Scouting for Food - March is the annual Scouting for Food campaign for our District. We are happy to say that every year we have been collecting more and more food. Wow, what a great feeling! Every Pack, Troop, Crew and Post should be involved. Please made a point in attending the February Pepfest so that you may be involved in the planning of this big community service project.

Life to Eagle - Attention all Scoutmasters! Please be aware and inform yours boys that on April 4, there will be a Life to Eagle Seminar in Duluth. It is so important for the Scout and his parents to understand the processes that accompanies the Life to Eagle path. In the past, Paul Bunyan has held its own Life to Eagle seminar. That is also an option. How about having it on the same day but here in Bemidji? Scoutmasters—Unite, plan, and promote the Duluth Seminar and/or a Bemidji Seminar.

Order of the Arrow Spring Conclave - Calling all Arrowmen! April 5-7 will be the annual Spring Conclave held at the Sommers Canoe Base outside of Ely, MN. Start planning now to attend. This is a time to remember your "cheerful service." Come help the Base and get involved with your Lodge. For those of you who are Ordeal members and are now eligible for Brotherhood, start your memorization and book reading now! Let's have a good turn out from Paul Bunyan District.

Webelos Leaders/Scoutmaster Specific & Outdoor Leader Training at Camp Kwitchyrbellyakin - December 9 Paul Bunyan District training team presented another fantastic Webelos Leader/Scoutmaster Specific and Outdoor Leader Training at Camp Kwitchyrbellyakin, thanks to **Dave Possin** and his well-trained staff. Looking at the calendar, there will be a repeat of this training April 8-9. If you are a Webelos

Leader or Scoutmaster or Assistant and not trained, mark your calendars and make this a priority to attend. Training is essential to every leader. Our Webelos and Boy Scouts deserve trained leaders who can provide the best experiences for them. Training doesn't hurt! Call **Dave** at (218) 444-4890 to sign up.

Spring Camporee - The Spring Camporee is on the calendar for April 21-23, but as I am writing this, I'm thinking which District is hosting the event? Paul Bunyan is doing the Klondike, and did the Fall Camporee too, so it would be really great for North Border or Appelget to step up to the plate and host this event. I will contact North Border and talk to Appelget to see what's cooking??

District Pinewood Derby - April 29 is the Paul Bunyan District Pinewood Derby. Once again it will be held at Paul Bunyan Mall. Thanks to cub Scout Pack 32, this

has been an outstanding District event. This year should be just as fun and successful. Mark your calendars and start your engines. All boys receive a District participation ribbon and trophies are given to the winners of both the District Champion and Open Champion races.

We're Online! - Attention Paul Bunyan District! Thanks to **Darryl Holman** and **Dave Possin**, Paul Bunyan District leaders are on line, and getting information faster than ever! If you are not receiving District information via email, please contact **Dave** at dpossin@paulbunyan.net Get on the email list today! If you don't have email and aren't receiving District information, call **Dave** at (218) 444-4890 or **Allison** at (218) 335-6650 and leave your name, unit number, address and phone number. Communication leads to organization which leads to success!

APPELGET

District Chair	Pete Soliz
(H) 218-327-1426	
District Commissioner	Rick Barta
(H) 218-326-1547	
District Paraprofessional	Laurie Howard
(H) 218-697-8426	(B) 800-939-5811
E-mail: lauries@lpc2.net	

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 5 Roundtable - New Roundtable Chair Gal Begins!!
- 5 Recharter Packet Turn In Night at Roundtable
- 5 District Commissioners Meeting
- 10 District Committee Meeting
- 10 Friends of Scouting Kick Off
- 15 Last Day to RSVP for District Dinner
- 21 District Dinner

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 Roundtable
- 2 District Commissioners Meeting

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 Roundtable
- 2 District Commissioners Meeting
- 21 District Committee Meeting

APRIL CALENDAR

- 6 Roundtable
- 6 District Commissioners Meeting

Roundtable!!! - **Barb Vernig** is our District's Cub Scout Roundtable

Chairperson. Roundtable is packed full of new ideas, old ideas, demonstrations, etc. This is a good way to meet up with fellow Scouters, share ideas as well as some of the challenges you are facing. This could be one of the most valuable hours of the month! Come on the first Thursday of the month and check out what **Barb** has planned for us!!!

Recharter Packet Turn-In - Recharter Packets must be turned in before January 21 at the latest to a member of the District Key 3. We have members of the District available to help answer questions and assist with the rechartering process. If you are unable to turn in your paperwork by this date, call **Laurie** at 327-2476.

District Dinner - The District Dinner will be held on January 21, 2006 at St Joe's Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. **Pete** is working on the program as we speak and if you know **Pete**, you know it will be memorable. The last day to RSVP

for the District Dinner is January 15. We are asking that you send a payment of \$12.00/ plate with your RSVP so we know how much to have the Caterer make. The menu is Pork Loin, Au Gratin Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Rolls and dessert. We will not be accepting walk-ins this year so RSVP early. We will be presenting awards and certificates to our friends and neighbors throughout the District! **Pete** informs me that he is still accepting nominees for the Cub Scout and the Boy Scout Silver Scout as well as the District Award of Merit so if you have a worthy Scouter who is deserving of these most prestigious awards, please notify **Pete**. If you want us to save you a place at this unique District event, call **Laurie** at 327-2476.

Friends of Scouting Kickoff - January 10 will be our 2006 FOS Kickoff. We would like to welcome **Tom Derry**, our 2006 Friends of Scouting Family Campaign Chairman, to our Scouting family. With

Tom's experience in the Scouting program, it's sure to be a great year! When you have set a Blue and Gold Banquet date, call **Laurie** with it, so we can make sure to

have some District Committee members there to help you celebrate! Welcome back **Tom!!!**

Pinewood Derby - **Pete** will be a contact person for the derby track

this year. *The only way to guarantee that the track is available on your date is to call and make reservations early.* You can call **Pete** at 327-1426.

NORTH BORDER

District Chairman

District Commissioner Frank Edwards

District Executive Allison Barta
(H) 218-335-6650 (B) 800-939-5811
E-mail: abarta@vac-bsa.org

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 24 Roundtable - Recharter Day, Wok Restaurant, Baudette, 12:00 Noon
- 24 Roundtable - Recharter Day, Faith United Church, International Falls, 6:00 PM

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 7 Roundtable, Wok Restaurant, Baudette, 12:00 Noon
- 7 Roundtable, Faith United Church, International Falls, 6:00 PM
- 10-12 Klondike Derby, Buena Vista Ski Hill, Bemidji

MARCH CALENDAR

- 14 Roundtable, Wok Restaurant, Baudette, 12:00 Noon
- 14 Roundtable, Faith United Church, International Falls, 6:00 PM
- 21 District Dinner, Indus School

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Scout Expo, International Falls Mall
- 6 Tiger Cub Join Us Night
- 21-23 Spring Camporee

Happy New Year! - To all Scout leaders and their families in North Border District. Thank you to each and everyone of you for your dedication to the Scouting program in 2005, the "Year of the Dragonfly." Your efforts brought success to your Dens, Packs and Troops. Special thanks to all of you who went beyond your units and helped with District events. Now 2006 is before us. The theme of the year will be announced at the District Dinner on March 21. Let's make this another great year in North Border!

District Dinner - This year's North Border District Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at Indus School. Nominations for District Award of Merit and Silver Scout Awards to be presented this night, need to be to **Julie Joslyn** by March 1. Please take time to

nominate the Scout leaders from your unit that are deserving of these awards. This is our time to celebrate another memorable year of Scouting. Encourage all leaders to attend. Registrations will be sent via e-mail.

District Emailing - Thank you to all North Border District leaders for your cooperation in getting our district on line. Completing this task made communications with North Border District quick and efficient. Anyone who isn't receiving District information via email, please call **Julie Joslyn** to get your name and email address on the list.

Klondike Derby - February 10-12 is the Tri-District Klondike Derby. Troop 80 of Paul Bunyan District has put together a great program to be held at Bemidji's Buena Vista Ski Hill. The derby is for Boy Scout Troops, Venture Crews, and Webelos. This will be our first event in which registration information will be sent by email. If you didn't receive the information, please e-mail Klondike Derby Chairman, **Bob Woodke**, at rawoodke@paulbunyan.net If you don't have e-mail, you may call him at (218) 444-9546 or (218) 759-1673, or contact the Council Service Center at (800) 939-5811 for a hard copy to be sent to you.

Training - North Border District did a great job getting leaders trained in 2005, but we know there are still some leaders who need to be trained. Training is very important! Would each unit please take a tally of who needs to be trained and contact **Frank Edwards** with that list as soon as possible. Paul Bunyan District held a Webelos Leader Specific, Boy Scouts Leader Specific and Outdoor Leader Training on December 8. **Tom Parish**,

Webelos Leader from Pack 14, International Falls, attended. Thanks Tom for taking time to complete your training.

Scout Expo - April 1 is Scout Expo for North Border District. This is a fun day for all the units of North Border to come together to show the North Border area that Scouting is alive. It's also the day the District Pinewood Derby is held. So mark your calendars and notify your boys to plan on attending.

Good Turn for America - With a new year here, it is time to earn the 2006 year strip for the Good Turn for America program. This is the third year for Scouts across the nation to be part of this program. Millions of hours and thousands of good turn projects from across the United States have been reported to the National Good Turn web page. Voyageurs Area Council is proud to be part of that program. A good turn was responsible for the beginning of Scouting here in the United States. Your good turns leave lasting memories in the hearts of Scouters and those who receive them. Thanks!

Tiger Join Us Night - April 6 is on the calendar for Tiger Cub Join Us Night for all the Cub Scout Packs in North Border. This is the time when we can meet with kindergarten boys and their parents and present the Cub Scout program to them. What a great concept! Boys join Tiger Cubs in April and are eligible to come to Cub Scout Day Camp. So check your school calendars to make sure this is the best date and let's plan a great Tiger Join Us Night!



TRADING POST HOURS

8:30 AM—5:00 PM
Monday—Friday

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Saturday

UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 2 New Year's - Office Closed
- 13-15 OA Winter Conclave
- 14-16 Martin Luther King Holiday - Office Closed
- 14 Scout Night with Bulldog Hockey
- 14-16 Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed
- 17 Executive Board Meeting
- 24 Council Venturing Committee Meeting
- 28 Council Annual Dinner & Meeting, Radisson Hotel

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 5 Scout Sunday
- 10-11 Youth & Adult Venture Leader Training

- 16 Council Training Committee Meeting
- 18-20 Presidents Day - Office Closed

MARCH CALENDAR

- 14 Council Venturing Committee Meeting
- 17-18 Executive Committee Retreat
- 25 Trainer's Development Course

APRIL CALENDAR

- 14-15 Easter - Office Closed
- 18 Executive Committee Meeting
- 20 Council Training Committee Meeting
- 21-22 Boy Scout Leader Training w/ Outdoor Leader Skills



United Way

Scouting in the Voyageurs Area Council is supported by:
United Ways of Bemidji Area, Gogebic Range, Hibbing, N.E. Minnesota, One Thousand Lakes, Carlton County, Superior-Douglas County and Greater Duluth.
Friends of Scouting - People with a special interest in Scouting.

Remember the Voyageurs Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, in your Will.

**Voyageurs Area Council
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