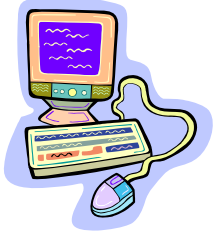


Pack News

PACK WEBSITE



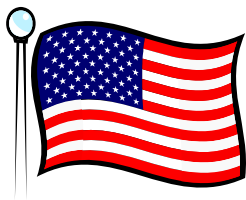
Be sure to check out the website often for Den schedules, present and past newsletters, links of interest and other information. The website is usually up to date and can be relied on to provide current information. The website is located at www.geocities.com/cubscoutpack285. The website will NOT contain personal information. The Pack is looking for someone to author/maintain the website; if you are interested in supporting the Pack with a few hours a MONTH of your time, please see Karl (Cubmaster) at your earliest convenience. He can be reached at 301-668-2235.

LONGABERGER BASKET LOTTO DUE TODAY!



Did you enjoy the Pack Ice Skating activity? Did you enjoy the Blue & Gold? What do these two activities have in common – **they were FREE!** These activities were provide free of charge to the Pack and their families because of the fundraising that was done in the past. Without fundraising, our Pack could not, would not thrive! *It is extremely important that every scout family participate in this activity.* ALL the proceeds are used to purchase belt loops, patches, books, entertainment and much more. So, help support the Pack and give that special Mother a Mother's Day gift! If you have not returned the money but want to participate, please see Tina tonight before you leave.

FLAG RETIREMENT & WEBELOS II BRIDGING



Congratulations to the Webelos II for completing yet another milestone in their path to Eagle – Bridging to Boy Scouts. All 5 Scouts – David, Billy, Jack, William and Jaeden – have joined Troop 792 and are already off to great fun with a camping trip in May. They will be missed! Thanks to Kelvin Anderson (Past Assistant Cubmaster) for coordinating the 2nd Annual Pack 285 Flag Retirement Ceremony and Tina for coordinating the Veterans. ..The Ceremony was just as impressive and moving as last year. It was an honor to have several Marine and Army Veterans participate in the Ceremony. A copy of the ceremony is at the end of this newsletter.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

JUNE

ANNUAL FRIENDS & FAMILY CAMPOUT & FISHING DERBY



Start planning for this great summer activity. This activity is lots of fun for the entire family. Reserve your campsite now!

- **Where: Greenbrier State Park**
- **When : June 13-15**

If you have never been to Greenbrier State Park, it is a very nice Maryland State camp ground about 20 minutes away and has a lake and a beach for swimming, fishing and boating.

Their website is <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/greenbrier.html>.

We will be camping in the Ash Loop
(<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/maps/ashloop.html>).

You can either call Greenbrier State Park (information below) and/or go online via the links above to make reservations.

**Greenbrier State Park
21843 National Pike
Boonsboro, MD 21713-9535
(301) 791-4767
Call 1-888-432-CAMP(2267) for reservations**

If you are not interested in camping, you and your family are more than welcome to spend all day Saturday participating in the Fishing Derby and cookout.

It appears that most, if not all, the campsites are available at this time and is a good time to make reservations. Otherwise, the longer you wait the fewer campsites/options available.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me

JULY



YOU PICK WHAT WE DO IN JULY!

We don't have anything – yet – however, here is your chance to help!
If you have an idea, please pass it on to your Den Leader or to the
Cubmaster.

AUGUST

ANNUAL RAIN GUTTER REGATTA



The date for the regatta is set for **AUGUST 23** at Ballenger Creek Park.
Although the time isn't set yet, please mark it on your calendar...

DEN NEWS



Tigers

The Tiger Cubs completed Achievement #4 with their Go & See It to Key 103 Radio Station. Mr. Dan, the radio announcer at Key 103, taught the Tigers all about the radio, how it works, what all the buttons on the panel mean and how they get the traffic and weather reports. The Scouts all had a great time and were very thankful we were allowed in the control room while Mr. Dan was **'live' on the air!** Here's a picture of us with Mr. Dan. The Tiger Cubs have also completed Achievement #5. We talked about Earth Day and why we celebrate it. We discussed the weather and using our senses in order to know what the weather is outside. We have learned about recycling. Mrs. Florimbio brought in many items that can be recycled and showed us all kinds of things that were made from recycled materials - such as masks and binoculars and a magazine holder! Really neat crafts can be made from recycled items. All the Tigers then made Soda Bottle Terrariums that were really cool! We took liter soda bottles, cut them in half and added rocks and dirt and special terrarium plants!

Mr. Clemens contributed to our second meeting held on Earth Day by providing us with lots of information about humidity control for industrial processes and energy recovery for buildings of all kinds. His company specializes in the use of desiccants to adsorb and transfer water vapor (humidity). We learned that desiccants work like sponges. We watched some small units running and a couple of handheld temperature and humidity sensors being used. Energy recovery is, of course, popular these days. The more we can recover from building exhaust air streams, the more energy can be saved in air-conditioning. This is friendly towards the environment.

We are planning a hike and picnic for the Tiger Cubs that will be really fun!



Bears

Bears Learn Safety and Get Green Thumbs

This month the Bear Den 2 of Pack 285 learned about fire safety, and safety in different kinds of accidents. Chris Poole and his dad led the den in achievement 11 – Be Ready. The Poole's invited representatives from the Carroll Manor Fire and Rescue station to talk about fire and auto safety. Do you practice fire drills at home? Do you have a planned place for all to meet once outside the house? Have you been checking the smoke alarms in the house? Many challenging questions like these were asked of the boys. We also talked about how to act if you were in a boating, or bus, or car or fell through thin ice accidents. At the end, the boys knew it was important for them to "Be Ready".

Bear Den 2 also got a chance to talk about recycling and get dirty – literally by leading us through the achievement – Take Care of Your Planet. Spencer Becker and his dad taught the boys about ways to recycle paper, plastic, and aluminum for example. Did you know you could get money for aluminum in Frederick? You can even do things in the house to get the most use of your water outside – like catch the first gallon or so of water from the tub as you are getting it ready for a shower or bath in a bucket, to use to water plants outside. To finish up the achievement, all the boys planted Lilly bulbs in pots to take home and take care of for that special day in May for that special someone ;>) to enjoy.



the

Webelos I

This month we worked on the Showman Achievement. As you can see we have quite a musical group. All 8 boys play a musical instrument with 7 of them playing in the school band. They treated us to a preview of the Spring Concert. They had a lot of fun showing off their talents. For our second meeting the boys created puppets, wrote plays and put them on for each other and their families. We have a talented bunch. Enjoy the pictures of the Spring Concert!



Cameron Playing Guitar while his Brother and Stephen Look On



Jared, Sean N. and Sean S Playing Sax and Trumpet



Stephen and Gage Playing Trumpet and Drum



Matt Playing Trombone and Samba and Sean S Playing Trumpet

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Webelos II Bridging
PACK 285, MARCH 18, 2008

Needed:

One Flag – worn, tattered and soiled, one medium fire

Second Flag – Cut the blue field with the stars, cut the smaller flag into pieces so each participant can have a piece to lay on the fire.

Burn barrels from Troop 792, wood, kindling, matches, water jugs, hot gloves, shovel.

Fire builder – Tyler Peterson has volunteered to help build the fires 15 minutes prior to the conclusion of the Webelos II Bridging

2 Boy Scouts (den chiefs) at the door handing out flag strips.

Color Guard – all Webelos II Scouts: 2 to hold flag, 2 beside the flag holders, one to hold and kiss the Blue field. 1 to call “salute” and “two” commands. All in full uniform.

CEREMONY

NARRATOR - Tonight we honor the symbol of our American freedom, the American **Flag** as we retire her from duty.

The **flag**, otherwise known as “Old Glory,” the “Stars and Stripes,” or the “Star Spangled Banner” represents the land, the people, the Government, and the ideas of the citizens of the United States of America. In 1942, congress passed the first U.S. code, which provides basic standards for honoring and presenting our **flag**. There is no set method for the of the retirement **flag** but it is generally known and strongly suggested that if the **flag** no longer adequately represents America that it be retired, preferably by burning. This that we have done and that we are about to do is “out of our utmost respect and undying honor” for the **flag**.

Our flag is the symbol of our country. It has represented during peace and at times of war. It has flown gloriously and triumphantly over foreign soils and across our nation from shore to shore.

Our flag has gone into every battle into which there have been United States citizens, from the American Revolution to the Civil War, to WW I, to WW II, to the Korean Conflict the Viet Nam War to the Desert Storm and to the present wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It has flown over some battles that were never declared, such as Beirut where the Marine Barracks was blown up by terrorists, at the Alfred Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, and by the rescuers at the World Trade Center.

In all of these, we the American people have stayed true to the values that the Flag represents. We should always value the sacrifices that have been made for our flag and the country that it represents.

We have some old friends here who have fulfilled their duty to our country. They have become worn and tattered and we are here tonight to retire them with honor.

We shouldn't be sad about the retirement of our flag. We are not burning them in anger; we are only releasing their spirit so that they can continue to serve us in our thoughts.

Now I would invite each of you to take a piece of flag that you were handed on your way out of the building and reflect on what the flag has meant to you. Later in our ceremony you will be instructed to place it on the fire.

HONOREES

Tonight we have the privilege of having in our presence 4 veterans who served our country with dignity and pride:

State Names of Veterans

(Give the blue field to one of the veterans to hold)

To honor the sacrifice these men made to serve our country I would like to read you the account of another brave soldier who served in Vietnam:

In the early years of our POW's imprisonment, the North Vietnamese kept our soldiers in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the North Vietnamese moved them from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room.

One of the men who moved into a larger room was a young man named Mike Christian.

Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then, he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing.

Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed it on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before they had a bowl of soup, the men would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched their cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it.

That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of the soldiers, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours, then they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. His friends cleaned him up as well as they could.

The cell in which they lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which they slept, four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room.

As I said, they tried to clean up Mike as well as they could. After the excitement died down, they looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was Mike Christian.

He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to his fellow soldiers to be able to Pledge their allegiance to our flag and country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world

You must remember their duty, their honor, and their commitment.

Please join me now in the pledge of allegiance.

Recite the pledge: Scouts salute

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

PACK ATTENTION!

The United States Flag Code states:

"No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United State of America; The Flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Color Guard enters in silence, reverently unfurls a folded flag to the Pack.

I AM YOUR FLAG

I was born on June 14, 1777

I am more than cloth shaped into a design.

I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people.

I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.

I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your sons in to battle from Valley Forge to the mountains and valleys of the Middle East.

I walked in silence with each of your honored dead to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses, row upon row.

I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

"Old Glory"

is my nickname; proudly I wave on high. Honor me. respect me, defend me with your lives and fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy. Worship Eternal God and keep his commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace of freedom for all people.

FOR I AM YOUR FLAG!

My 13 stripes represent the 13 original colonies and the pioneers who carved a nation out of a wilderness. They risked everything to fight for the Independence which we enjoy today."

My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation. They symbolize hardiness and courage, the hardiness of the early pioneers, the courage of the common working man.

Let us retire the Red Stripes—All Scouts --Salute! All who have a piece of red stripe please come forward and place it on the fire and return to the audience.

(burn the RED stripes)

Two.

My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons. Let us remember those who care for us and protect us from the enemy.

Let us retire the White Stripes -- All Scouts --Salute! All who have a piece of white stripe please come forward and place it on the fire and return to the audience.

(burn the WHITE stripes) Two.

My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which we fly. My stars, clustered together, unify 50 States as one for God and Country.

Let us retire the Blue Field with Stars.—All Scouts – Salute!

Have the vetrans attending holding the blue field lay it on top of the fire

(burn the BLUE Field with Stars) Two.

"Now I am just a memory, but I remain the flag that stands for the greatest nation on earth. I am no more than what you believe me to be and I am all that you believe I can be. I am what you make me and nothing more. As long as men cherish liberty more than life itself, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America. Remember her and look at her with renewed allegiance, honor her, respect her and defend her.

When I once again climb to the top of the flagpole, I'll wave at you and remember the love and respect that you have showed me here tonight.

“And now Scouts, families, and honored guest – Good night.”

Author Unknown (adapted by Kelvin Anderson from many sources)