



Troop 214 Parent News

March, 2013

<http://www.bsatroop214.us>

Harold Hodnett

Scoutmaster

Key Events This Month

March 3rd: Adult Leader Meeting
March 8-10: Fort Fisher Campout
March 14th: OA Meeting
March 15th-17th: OA Pow Wow

Key Events Next Month

April 5-7th: District Camporee
April 19th-21st: OA Conclave
April 22nd: Court of Honor
April 26-28th: Troop Leader Training

Dates to Remember

March 3rd: ASM/Adult Leader Meeting 7 PM
March 4th: PLC, Troop & Committee Meeting
March 7th: Roundtable
March 8-10th: Battleship/Fort Fisher Campout
March 11th: Troop Meeting 7 PM
March 14th: OA Meeting
March 15-17th: OA Pow Wow
March 18th: Troop Meeting 7 PM
March 25th: Troop Meeting. 7 PM

A Special Message from Scoutmaster Harold Hodnett:

Welcome new Scouts and Parents!

I'd like to extend a hearty welcome to the newest Scouts and Parents with Troop 214! Pack 214 held their annual Blue and Gold celebration on Sunday, February 24th in the sanctuary and fellowship hall of Benson Memorial.

Six Scouts from Pack 214 and one from Pack 365 joined us in the bridging ceremony.

Our newest Scouts are: Eric Benson, Grant Benson, Will Gard, Sam Joyner, Matthew Till, Kurt Matteson, and Ryley Price.

Their enthusiasm is overwhelming and we look forward to their participation as our newest members of Troop 214!

Other Important Updates from Scoutmaster Hodnett:

Troop Leadership Training (TLT): We will be holding our Troop Leadership Training on April 26-28th in Emerald Isle at Dr. Roberts' beach house. (Thanks to the Roberts for their extreme generosity to allow us to use their wonderful place for the weekend).

So what is TLT? It is a training event for Scouts to teach them the principles of Leadership, as well as its methods, importance, and ideals. It helps Scouts become better leaders by training them on what Leadership is and how to effectively be a leader. It is a fun weekend at the beach where adult volunteers help to train the Scouts in Leadership skills as well as team building activities, and make it a fun experience.

Inclement Weather and Holiday Policy for Troop Meeting

The Troop does not usually have meetings on Monday nights that fall on the same days as scheduled student holidays listed on the WCPSS traditional school calendar. In the event that WCPSS cancels school during the day on a Monday due to weather, the Troop meeting will also be canceled. Contact [Cathy Sprankle](mailto:CathySprankle@gmail.com) by e-mail or phone (787-3732) if you have information to submit to the monthly parent newsletter. Items for the newsletter may also be submitted to the Troop Historian. Change your e-mail? Please notify [Jay Sprankle](mailto:JaySprankle@gmail.com).

Signup sheets will be posted and priority will actually be given to younger Scouts who have never attended! We will also accept as many "repeat attenders" as we can accommodate.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Hodnett

Calling all adults: Volunteers needed!

In reviewing our recharter paperwork for the year, I see a definite need for more adult volunteers. We have a small amount of adults who attend almost every meeting and go on almost every campout. It is very comforting to know that the meetings and campouts go on whether I am present or not. But what if something were to happen to some of our "core" volunteers? Things that happen can include change in employment, relocation, aging out of the scouts (and loss of interest by the parent), illness, or other issues that prevent their participation. How will the Troop function? Will advancement still occur as it always has? Will campouts still be fun, well planned, and well run?

We have options for all levels of participation, everything from Troop Committee members who sit on Boards of Review, to trip advisors, to Assistant Scoutmasters. You can commit to as little as an hour a week to as much time as you can spare. I would ask each of you to do some soul searching to see how you will be able to assist us in delivering the quality Scouting program that this Troop has become known for. Maybe you don't know how you can help.... Just see me (or e-mail me) and I will certainly be happy to discuss some opportunities available. As an adult volunteer for over 10 years, I have to say that it is very

rewarding to work with the Scouts in our Troop. Thank you in advance to those of you who will step forward and answer the call!

News and Details About Upcoming Events

Stephen Frein Eagle Service Project!

Veteran Boy Scout and all around good guy Stephen Frein will be working on his Eagle project on Saturday and Sunday March 9th and 10th and he would like your help!

If you are not on the Battleship campout, by chance, that weekend, give Stephen a call at 919-740-9996 for more details.

Lunch and service hours are included not to mention showing Scout Spirit!!!

Merit Badge Counselors Needed!

We all have special talents and you'd be amazed at how many of them can be utilized in various Merit Badge courses for the benefit of our Boy Scouts.

ASM Mike Fair is currently leading an effort to recruit and update the Troop's roster of Merit Badge Counselors and he'd like to hear from you!!!

He'll be sending out a questionnaire soon inquiring about your talents and will follow up with teaching a class on how to be a great Merit Badge Counselor! If there is something you do for a living or hobbies you have that you are passionate and knowledgeable about

then there is a place on our registry for you! Show your Scout Sprit and teach, mentor, and instruct our boys from an array of over 120 merit badges that strengthen their knowledge and explore their interests.

Further details on an upcoming Troop Merit Badge Day at Benson will be forthcoming and Mr. Fair wants to update our records so we can kick off our MB offerings with a new list of sessions taught. And for our seasoned counselors, he'll be making sure your information is current.

Please e-mail Mike mikefair1@nc.rr.com for complete details!

Order of the Arrow

From OA Representative Will Hollerung
Upcoming OA News:

- Spring Pow-wow will be March 15-17 2013 at Camp Durant. For members recently elected, there will also be an Ordeal weekend at this event.
- OA Elections: The OA Elections have already happened at our troop (on 2/25/13) but is still going on at many other troops.
- The next Lodge workday will be on March 2nd to help prepare for Conclave.
- Lodge 104 will be hosting this year's Conclave at Camp Durant. It will be held on April 19-21. Be sure to come out to

the workdays to help in preparation for this exciting event!

- This year's District Camporee will also be held in April. This is a great time for all scouts that were part of the election to come out and see if they will be tapped out! It will be held on the first weekend in April at Camp Durant.

Summer Camp 2013!!!

Initial camp deposit of \$100 is due March 25th. There have been a lot of inquiries regarding merit badge opportunities at Camp Durant. The Camp is still in process of finalizing the schedule. Once that is complete, it will be distributed to the troop via email and in a troop meeting presentation. Additional details for 2013 camp can be found in a flyer contained in this newsletter. Please take some time to review additional key dates. If there are any questions, please contact Joe Fiely at fiely@bellsouth.net or 919-247-9329

Updates from Previous Troop 214 Events

February DC Campout

Troop 214 departed the Scout Hut on Fri.Feb15th at 5:30pm, and drove five hours through a cold and windy evening to the American Legion Youth Camp in Cheltenham, MD. Our host, the AL Southern Maryland District had kindly pre-heated our cinderblock

cabin, and our 15 scouts bedded down in bunk beds on one side, while our 8 adults took the other. Following a midnight "lights out" all were quiet and comfortable, despite the cold drizzle outside.

We arose at 6am on Saturday, and ate a healthy but quick breakfast in our cabin. Afterwards, we drove to the nearby Branch Ave. Station, where we paid our fares and boarded the Metro shortly after 8am. We arrived at the Capitol Metro stop and made our way to the Capitol Visitors' Center on the early side of our 9:30am appointment. The scouts took this opportunity to visit the gift shop. Our charming young female guide gave us radio wave headsets, which enabled us to hear only her above all the other guides. She guided us through the Capitol rotunda and inner passages, while offering us interesting historical bits. For example, who knew that originally George Washington was to have been buried under the center Compass Stone directly below the rotunda? However, his heirs declined, as it would have taken place several decades after his passing, AND his original will specified burial at Mt. Vernon. From the Capitol, the troop walked underground to the Library of Congress. Afterwards, we walked to the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum to eat our prearranged lunch at McDonalds. From there, we split into four smaller groups, which visited the Air & Space, American History, Natural History, and Native American museums. The latter group looked for signs and symbols of the Occoneechee, Delaware (Lani Lenape), and Kiowa tribes! By early evening it was time to make our way to the Union Station international food court for dinner, followed

by a Metro ride back to MD. Saturday evening everyone talked, read, or played cards or bean bags. By 10:30pm the cabin was quiet!

On Sunday morning we "slept in" until 7am, and once again had breakfast in our cabin. We departed in our vehicles and drove to the Jefferson Monument on the tidal basin. Low temperatures and a steady wind made for a chilly visit, but the whitecaps on the Potomac were impressive. In the distance we could see the Lincoln, Washington, and MLK monuments. From there, we drove the short distance across the river to the Arlington Cemetery, just in time to view the guard change and wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers - an inspiring sight! We briefly visited the Battleship Maine mast/monument, the Robert E. Lee/Mary Custis house, and the Kennedy Family plots including JFK's eternal flame. Afterwards we dined on bagged lunches at the Iwo Jima Marine Corps monument in Rosslyn, VA. After lunch we drove to Chantilly, VA to visit the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum annex. The troop walked amongst civilian and military aircraft across all eras of worldwide aviation. Of particular note were the Space Shuttle Discovery, SR71 Blackbird, Concorde SST, and B29 "Enola Gay." Another round of gift shopping was in order before we left. After our drive back to the cabin, we dined on delivered pizza (10 boxes!). Afterwards, smaller groups worked on Citizenship Merit Badges or relaxed. We called it a day around 11pm.

Monday morning we ate a quick breakfast, packed and loaded our gear, cleaned our cabin and restroom, and departed for Quantico, VA where we gassed up our vehicles. We arrived

at the Marine Corps museum shortly after its 9am opening, and everyone enjoyed this impressive facility. After a final round of gift shopping, we drove to Fredericksburg, VA by noon, and dined at, OF COURSE, Golden Corral! We arrived intact back at the Scout Hut around 4:30pm on President's Day.

"Thank you's" to Mr. Skiscim for his superb organization, trip leadership, and driving the Van. Thanks also to the Trip Committee (Dylan Skiscim, Andy Jones and other committee members, adult leaders (Messrs. Jones, Fouse, Setzer, Fowler, Castillo, Andrews, and Motter), the American Legion of So. MD, acting SPL Andy Jones, QM Dylan Skiscim, and our very understanding and accommodating Troop Treasurer Mr. Greg Jones.

Quote of the Month
(In recognition of March Madness Basketball)

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. 26

times, I have been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I have failed over and over and over in my life and that is why I succeed."

Michael Jordan
Former NBA Great
NBA Team Owner

Joke of the Month:

Scout Leader to Scout: "The only way to learn a new skill is to start at the bottom."

Scout: "But I want to learn to swim!"

Thanks to Scoutmaster Mr. Harold Hodnett and adult leaders, Mr. Craig Setzer, Mr. Brian Skiscim, Mr. Mike Fair, Mr. Mike Jones, Mr. Stuart Thomas and OA representative Will Hollerung for contributing to this month's newsletter.

Troop 214 Scout Sunday, Washington DC Photos

NOTE: Please see 2013 Summer Camp Flier at the end of this section















Troop 214 Summer Camp 2013

When: 6/23/2013 - 6/29/2013

Where: Occoneechee Scout Reservation
Carthage, NC

Cost: Youth: \$265 (includes Camp and Transportation.*)
Adult: \$50

*Additional merit badge fees may apply

Key Dates

March 25th	\$100 deposit due for each youth attending camp!!!
May 13th	Merit Badge requests due
May 27th	Medical forms for all youth and adults due to Troop.
June 1st	Balance due for all campers youth and adult.
June 1st	Last day to request refund for camp.

Please direct all questions about camp to Joe Fiely
fiely@bellsouth.net or 919-247-9329

