

Troop 214 Parent News

<http://www.bsatroop214.us>

July, 2013

Harold Hodnett Scoutmaster



Key Events This Month

July 9th : Final Swim Test for 2013
July 12-14th: Appomattox Campout
July 14-23rd: National Jamboree

Key Events Next Month

August 1st: Roundtable
August 4th ASM Meeting
August 5th: Troop Committee Meet
August 8th: OA Meeting
August 9-11th: Motorboat Camp.
August 19th: Court of Honor

Dates to Remember

July 15th: Troop Meeting
July 22nd: Troop Meeting
July 29th: Troop Meeting

A Message from Scoutmaster Harold Hodnett:

There will be No Scout Meeting on Monday, July 15th due to Summer Break and our SPL and ASPL will be attending National Scout Jamboree

Also, there will **NOT** Troop Committee Meeting in July. The next Troop Committee meeting will be Monday, August 5th



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 cancelled. Contact Mark Holmes at unc10s@yahoo.com 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](#).

Order of the Arrow Report:



OA Representative Will Hollerung reports that there will be no OA Meeting in July.

News and Details About Upcoming Events:

Important Announcement:

ASM Mike Jones notes that the FINAL Swim Test for 2013 will be administered at Seven Oaks Swim & Racquet Club 2500 Howard Road, Raleigh, on Tuesday evening **July 9th** from 5:30 to 7 PM. Directions can be found at

<http://www.sevenoaksraleigh.com/sor/location.htm>

Completing the annual Swim Test is required of all Scouts and Adult Leaders who participate in aquatics events.

Remaining T214 Summer aquatic events include July camp out swimming, August camp out boating / water skiing / swimming, Sep camp out boating / swimming)



July Appomattox Campout

Troop 214 will celebrate the sesquicentennial (150 yrs) of the American Civil War by visiting the site of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, Virginia on July 12-14.

We will be camping in a spacious group site (max 30) of the Holiday Lake State Park in the Appomattox State Forest. Saturday we will visit the village of Appomattox Court House, which has been preserved as it appeared during the April 1865 surrender.

We will start early in the morning to police a park trail and earn a BSA/National Park Service patch, before visiting the historic

McLean House - site of the meeting between Lee and Grant.

In the afternoon we will visit the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox, where a Confederate Marine reenactor unit will be encamped. Saturday evening we will cool off in Holiday Lake back at our base camp.

Saturday night we will have the opportunity for campfire program and flag ceremony, for those who need to participate for rank advancement. Sunday morning we will break base camp and visit the Pamplin Historical Center of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Virginia. Scouts will be able to tour several interactive exhibits, including recreated earthworks, encampments, battlefields, and of course gift shops!

We will return to Raleigh late Sunday afternoon. Cost for camping, swimming, museums, and gas will be \$40. Grub will be approximately \$25, including a Sunday fast food lunch. Total cost will be ~\$65. **A final(?) Troop 214 BSA Swim Test will be administered at Seven Oaks Swim & Racquet Club at Creedmoor and Howard Roads on Tuesday July 9th from 6-7pm, for those who were not tested earlier this Summer.** Questions: Mike Jones-ASM / Trip Lead (919-451-3676), or Preston Jones and Javier Castillo - Trip Committee. "Long live the Union!"

Please see complete details towards the end of this newsletter skillfully prepared by ASM Mike Jones and Preston Jones, Trip Committee

Updates from Previous Troop 214

Events: Summer Camp 2013!!!

As dispatched from ASM Mr. David Burdett:

Early Week Report:

Hello all of you anxious parents,

I know you are dying to hear that your son is well and thriving at muggy and buggy Camp Durant. Rest assured we are all well, using bug spray, and having fun. I've killed two horseflies and a tick so far. We got processed in quickly, and established camp in good order. We do have a few swim tests to finish due to an untimely thunderstorm, but we will get those caught up.

We are using the Patrol Method this year, due to the large number of Scouts. So far this has been effective, in that the senior leadership is able to delegate duties and responsibilities to patrol leaders or other key scout leaders, giving more chances to develop leadership and team work. For example, we have a duty roster assigned by patrol. The patrol sees the camp service task, and figures out the best way to "get 'er done" as a team. This has dramatically cut down on the whining and crying!

What was for dinner, Grandpa? Dinner last night was mystery roast beast, undercooked, with an au jus made from lake weeds, creamed processed potato starch food product, salad sans lettuce, and a brownie. Mmmm, mmmm!

Attached are pictures from Campfire last night, and a few from this morning. Sadly, the campfire skirts provided by the camp staff were exceptionally lame. Just as sad was that none of us remembered to get rotten tomatoes from the dining hall to bring along.



Today the Scouts are working on merit badges, and getting acclimated to the heat. Scouting recognizes this condition on the first day of camp, so most of the strenuous outdoor activities are held later in the week when the Scouts are more conditioned. Today was mostly class work, which got a few bored sighs from the boys. Cole Andrews did score big: he landed a bass on the first cast of Fishing MB, and is almost done with the badge! He just has to clean, cook, and eat the fish today!

Adults train and work, too. Conita Benson is working the shotgun range. We have to raise our voices a bit for her to understand things today. Mr. Setzer and I are picking cinder blocks off the bottom of the lake tomorrow, as training for Aquatics Supervisors. Mr. Vellacis is helping the First Year training, along with their provisional Troop Guide, Ian Reetz.

Two of our troop are on Staff. We see Matt Kuwalik regularly. He ducks in to our site to say hello from his Mountain biking work. Stephen Frien is here, too, and in charge of

Crafts. Stephen had a car crash recently, if you hadn't heard, but is whole and well.

So far, so good. We hope to nip any homesickness in the bud quickly tomorrow, and have confiscated several cell phones to help. Yes, we had many scouts disobey our rules, and bring their PED. These will be returned at the end of the week. Other than that, smooth sailing!



Mid Week Report:

Hello Everyone,

We are well, and staying busy. Weather is a bit warm, but we are coping well. The on-off threat of thunderstorms has curtailed some of the activity, but the boys are in good spirits, and are working hard on their badges.

Last night proved eventful, as the evening was capped by some competitions. First, a slushy chugging competition. Our Will Gard represented the troop, but he went down early in the competition with a case of brain freeze! Good try, Will!

On the activity field was the largest dodgeball game you have ever seen. Hundreds of campers and staffers going at it, trying to

pelt each other with several traditional red rubber gym balls! Game went on to sundown, and was called with no clear winner, just lots of tired but happy kids. The Order of the Arrow had an ice cream fellowship, and was well attended. I've eaten more ice cream in the past two days than I have all year!

Evenings around the camp are devoted to patch trading, card games, trivia, and old summer camp "war" stories. Most kids went to bed ready to sleep at Taps, except for two first-years freaked out by a moth in their tent. These two kept me and Mr. Hollerung up well past midnight. I'll be speaking to those boys parents individually, and sending them my bill for off-hours counseling and therapy services.

This morning, Mr. Setzer and I worked on our Aquatics Activity Supervision certifications. Today's activity: canoeing. Turns out the canoes are sized for people under six feet in height, and less than 200 pounds. Mr. Setzer and I are now fully trained in swamped canoe recovery, as we got to practice this twice.

Late Week Report:

Hello, everyone!

Two-for-one day. Last night's electrical storm interrupted any plans for going to the Lodge and getting Wi-Fi. Nature attempted again tonight, but it wasn't as bad as last night. This will likely be the last one, as we will be at campfire, and packing for the return tomorrow. Our checkout is scheduled for 8:30 Saturday, though we may have a few odds and ends to take care of. We should be

back around 10, but will have to clean quite a bit of muddy equipment and vehicles before anyone is released.

The boys are surviving camp well, though we do have a couple of minor scrapes and bug bites to show. Knock on wood, but we've seen much worse in the past. In spite of the weather, almost everyone has completed their merit badges or training. We have had a few tempers flare, but nothing requiring police intervention.

Letters home went out yesterday and today. The boys were instructed to tell you they were having fun, the food is good, and the leaders are nice. I categorically deny any assertions to the contrary.

Wednesday was uneventful until lunch. Then we went to the area around the Admin Building to clear out undergrowth for a service project. Lots of bug spray, and only 1 tick reported. A few of us took the OA Brotherhood Trail, and will be inducted as full Brothers after Campfire Friday

After dinner, Camp had a Carnival planned. There was a tug of war, basketball tournament, and Gaga Pit competition, along with other activities. Our Tug team made it to the 2nd round. They so intimidated their first round opponent that they didn't show up. Sadly the intimidation had little effect on the next team they faced. The 3-on-3 basketball game featured a great matchup: Reetz, Hollerung, and Norwood squared off against a team that had a kid over 6' tall. The game featured excellent passing, tough rebounding, and plenty of fouls. Our team lost

on a late shot by the big kid. A tremendous effort though.

Activities were curtailed Wednesday night by the Tornado warning that came up nearby. We all enacted our storm plan, and hunkered down in our shelters, with rain jackets, flashlights, and topped off water bottles. Our part of the storm turned out to be a tempest in a teapot. Everyone sang songs, told jokes, and played cards until the storm passed. Mr. Setzer seems to have lost his shirt in one of those card games.

Thursday arrived with a very early wake-up, followed by the trudge to the dining hall. We served breakfast for the entire camp, close to 800 folks, in less than 30 minutes. The boys received a big complement from the Kitchen Staff for that! They also had a lot of fun doing it, and everyone chipped in.

An afternoon storm delayed the start of the famous Huck Finn Race. This is an event where each troop provides a homemade raft, and they have to get it to the water, paddle it around a buoy in the lake, and back to shore. First one back wins. We had to race after dinner, which made the contestants edgy! Our troop entry featured a pool noodle and duct tape float by Hixson and Norwood. Turned out to be a very efficient and stable craft. At the start, they hit the water fast. They got out to an early lead, but were caught at the turn by another raft featuring a stabilizing outrigger. This looked to be the end of our dauntless heroes, but the other team put the outrigger on the wrong side of the boat. As they leaned into the turn, the 2nd place team learned their error, as their

boat capsized. Hixson and Norwood made the turn easily, and powered home to a convincing win! 214 wins the Huck Finn Race!!! We have video of the win, which will be posted upon return!

After the race, we hosted an Ice Cream social with a Troop from Virginia Beach. They also worked at the Warbirds Museum we visited in May, and we all lamented the demise of the museum. We did enjoy the ice cream and visit, and they had cobbler for us.

Friday is wrap-up day, as a few last minute merit badge requirements are done. After lunch is the prestigious Tomahawk Race. Closing Campfire is in the evening.

Quote of the Month:

(Republished from this month's Scout Sign Newsletter):

"The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, but what direction we are moving"

*Oliver Wendell Holmes
Poet, Physician, Essayist
1809-1894*

Joke of the Month:

In Honor of July's most unwelcome Summer visitor, the mosquito:

What flies, bites, and talks in code?
A morse-quito!

What do you get if you cross the Lone Ranger with an insect?
The Masked-quito!

What has antlers and sucks blood?
A moose-quito!

What is a mosquito's favorite sport?
Skin-diving!

Why did the mosquito go to the dentist?
To improve his bite!

Thanks to Scoutmaster Mr. Harold Hodnett and adult leaders, Mr. David Burdett, Mr. Mike Jones, Mr. Mike Filey and OA Representative Will Hollerung for contributing to this month's newsletter.

Summer Camp 2013 Photos!!!!







APPOMATTOX CAMP OUT

WHEN: FRI-SUN JUL 12-14

WHY: CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL = 150 YEARS AGO!

WHERE: APPOMATTOX STATE FOREST www.dof.virginia.gov/stforest/print/Appomattox-Buckingham-brochure.pdf

FRI-SUN: HOLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hol.shtml



SAT: APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE (SURRENDER SITE)

www.nps.gov/apco

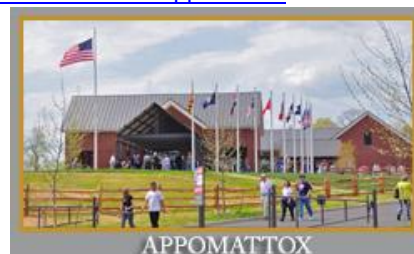


the National Park Service
Resource Stewardship patch.



SAT: APPOMATTOX MUSEUM (ARTIFACTS)

www.moc.org/visit-us?mode=appomattox



SUN: PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK (INTERACTIVE)

www.pamplinpark.org



HOW: DEPART SCOUT HUT ~ 6PM, EAT BAGGED DINNER ON DRIVE, ARRIVE BASE CAMP ~ 9PM, CLASS B (FRI & SAT PM), CLASS A (SAT & SUN AM), SCOUT FOOTWEAR AT ALL TIMES
TENT CAMPSITE FOR MAX 30, WATER & FIRE PITS, NEARBY BATHROOMS & SHOWERS
BRING SCOUTING 10 ESSENTIALS, PLUS SUN SCREEN, BUG SPRAY, HAT, SUNGLASSES
BRING BATHING SUIT, TOWEL, & WATER SHOES FOR LIFEGUARDED SWIMMING BEACH
GRUB: 1 BAGGED DINNER (FRI), 2 CAMP BREAKFASTS (SAT & SUN),

1 BAGGED LUNCH (SAT), 1 CAMP DINNER (SAT), 1 FAST FOOD LUNCH (SUN)

FEES: CAMPING + SWIMMING + WOOD + MUSEUMS + GAS = \$40, GRUB ~ \$25, **TOTAL \$65**

CARS: BMUMC VAN (11 + GEAR) + 2-3 CHASE VEHICLES MAX

WHO: MIKE JONES - ASM & LEAD (919-451-3676 MOBILE), PRESTON JONES - TRIP COMMITTEE