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| Troop 214 Parent News | Opening: Panthers |
| August 2010 | Game: Cobras |
| [**http://www.bsatroop214.us**](http://www.bsatroop214.us) | Service: Moose |
| Harold Hodnett Scoutmaster |  |

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| **Key Events This Month** | **Key Events Next Month** |
| Aug 13-15 - Motorboating Campout | Sept 4 - Stream Cleanup |
| Aug 29 - Court of Honor (tentative) | Sept 10-12 - Aviation Campout |
|  | Sept 25 - Popcorn Sales Start |

##### Dates to Remember

July 26-August 4 - National Jamboree

August 2 - Troop Mtg 7 pm

August 5 - Roundtable

August 9 – PLC 6:30 pm; Troop Mtg 7 pm; Troop Committee 7 pm

August 12 - OA Meeting

August 13-15 - Motorboating Campout

August 16 - Troop Mtg 7 pm; Boards of Review

August 23 - Troop Mtg 7 pm

August 25 - First day of School, WCPSS Traditional Calendar

August 29 - Court of Honor 5 pm

August 30 - Troop Mtg 7 pm

Details About Upcoming Events

**Motorboating Campout –** With the temps soaring to 100 (+) this is one way to cool off, earn a merit badge and have some fun! The motorboating campout will be held **August 13-15** near Macon, NC, on Lake Gaston. We will be camping on land adjacent to the James' vacation house, which is located on a cove on the waterfront. Opportunities will be available to earn the Motorboating and Water Sports merit badges. We will meet at the Scout Hut at 5 pm Friday Aug. 13 and depart shortly thereafter. Scouts should bring a sack dinner or eat before coming to the Scout Hut, as the lake is 1 ½ hours away and we don’t plan to stop. In addition to normal camping gear, Scout should bring a swimsuit, towel, suntan lotion and life jacket (if you own one). We will have two full days for water activities including skiing, tubing, wakeboarding, swimming, canoeing, and fishing. This is a great campout that is easy and fun to participate in! Cody Brown and Sean Colby are the Scout committee and Mrs. James is the adult advisor.

**August Court of Honor –** Our next troop Court of Honor will be held on **Sunday, August 29th** in the Benson Memorial UMC Fellowship Hall starting at 5 pm. It will be a potluck dinner, and food assignments will be made by patrol closer to the event. The theme for this event will be "Toy Story". As this is the first Court of Honor after summer camp, there will be a lot of advancement awards and merit badges to be handed out. You won't want to miss it!

**Call for Adult Volunteers –** Troop 214 is an excellent boy-led troop, but there are many functions that can only be performed by adult volunteers. If Scouting is important to your son and you would like to ensure that Troop 214 continues to provide an excellent Scouting experience, please consider attending Troop Committee meetings, serving on Boards of Review, becoming a Merit Badge Counselor or Assistant Scoutmaster, or serving in another volunteer position. Contact Troop Committee Chair Mr. Monty Livingston at monty.livingston@gmail.com or Scoutmaster Mr. Harold Hodnett at hhodnett@hotmail.com for more information.

**Upcoming OA Events –** This month's OA meeting will be on **Thursday, August 12th**; all meetings are held in Benson UMC’s youth center. The meeting will start at 6:30 with pizza with meeting business starting at 7:00. On the agenda, we will be brainstorming ideas for Kato’s theme for Fall Fellowship. Also, all Arrowmen should mark their calendars now for **September 17th -19th** to attend the Lodge 104 Fall Fellowship at Camp Durant.

**Stream Cleanup –** Our semi-annual stream cleanup will be held on **Saturday, September 4th** starting at 9am. Troop 214 has adopted a stream and if you drive down “new” Lead Mine Road, you’ll see the sign for it. We will meet on Forum Drive, behind the Six Forks Cinema movie theatre (where the stream crosses under the road). Bring work gloves and wear boots too, as you may get wet. (Long pants are not a bad idea either, given the scrub and thorns along the creek.) We sweep both ends of the creek and when we are done, we move up to the Char-Grill for lunch and fun (bring $$ for lunch if you intend to stay). It is a good time and a good turn for our community. This counts as service hours and part of a conservation project. See you there!!

**Recent Website Updates –** The 2010-2011 Troop Calendar is available on the website on the **Documents** page: look under on the "Troop 214 Documents and Forms" section. The main Calendar link and the Flash calendar on the home page will be updated in the next couple of weeks.

The photo gallery from the June Tubing Campout is available from the Photos page or at http://www.bsatroop214.us/images/galleries/TubingCampout\_Jun2010/index.htm. Photos from summer camp will be available soon. Thanks to Troop Webmaster Troy Sturdivant and adult advisor Mr. Stuart Thomas for keeping our website up to date!

**History Camp Out –** The Troop is planning a History camp out **September 10th-12th**, in Virginia, which will focus on the Civil War and early Aviation history. On Friday September 10th, the Troop will journey to Vulcan, VA, home of the Jones Family's Lazy J Farm. (Participants should eat Friday dinner prior to the planned 5:30 pm departure, or bring a bagged dinner for the drive.) The Troop will be tenting in a grassy horse pasture, and will have access to a spacious hay barn loft, in the event of bad weather. Parking, well water, firewood, restroom, fireflies, crickets, and whipoorwills are all nearby! If clear skies prevail, Friday night will be a great opportunity for stargazing.

Saturday morning September 11, we will drive an hour to downtown Richmond, VA to tour the American Civil War Center, Museum of the Confederacy, White House of the Confederacy, Kanawha Canal Walk, and Monument Avenue. If time allows on the return leg, we will visit the infamous Battle of the Wilderness battlefield, which took place only a few miles from our camp site. Listen carefully and you may hear the sound of ghostly musketry and cannon fire...

On Sunday morning September 12, we will break camp and travel 40 miles to Bealeton, VA to tour the Flying Circus Aerodrome. A local RC model airplane club will have an exhibition prior to the airshow. We will view the Flying Circus airshow that afternoon, and the Scouts will have an opportunity to meet the pilots after the show. The Troop should return to the Scout Hut by 9pm. The total cost per Scout is estimated to be $80. Troop Monday night "Program" segments for Aug 23rd and 30th will focus on Civil War history and WWI Aviation history, respectively. "Switches on - contact," and let's hear your "rebel yell!" Plans for the campout will evolve over the coming month. Trip committee contacts are Scouts Noah Luxford and Andy Jones; Mr. Mike Jones is the adult advisor.

Recent Highlights

**New Troop 214 Eagle Scouts -** We are thrilled to announce that since the last newsletter three Troop 214 Scouts have passed their Boards of Review and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Congratulations to David Dvorak, Aric Dilalla, and Jonathan Weaver and their families on reaching this milestone!

**It's Getting Chilly! -** No, the weather hasn't changed, but it is getting noticeably cooler in the Scout Hut. That's because ASM Mr. Mike Fair came up and spent his afternoon reconfiguring one of the windows in the main room and installing our new window air conditioner. In order to achieve the maximum amount of cooling, please remind our Scouts to keep the doors and windows to the main room closed when it is running. Thanks again Mr. Fair!

**OA Summer Activities -** Within the OA we have had some fun stuff going on. On June 10, we had our new member cookout. The cookout was a huge success with many new Arrowmen in attendance. From Troop 214, Kenny Jones, Rob Sprankle, Stephen Frein, Joshua Thomas, and Matthew Fiely all joined in the fellowship. In addition, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Frein, and Mr. Liberty helped out with the festivities. A good time was had by all!

Moving on to July: During summer camp at Camp Durant, the Troop had the opportunity to attend the Occoneechee Council Tap Out ceremony on Family Night. Even though our troop did not participate in the ceremony it was still fun to watch, and the event gave all the new scouts and their parents an opportunity to see an Order of the Arrow ceremony. Allowat Sakima the mighty chief, Meteu the medicine man, Nutiket the guard, and Kitchkinet the guide were the four ceremonial characters that welcomed a large number of new Ordeal candidates. This ceremony is the same one that Troop 214 Ordeal candidates participated in last April. In addition, during summer camp Matthew Fiely sealed his membership in the OA by completing the Brotherhood Trail.

**National Jamboree -** The Occoneechee Council's contingent of nine troops of Scouts left Monday July 26 at for the BSA National Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia. In addition to the Council Campers, former Troop 214 Scouts Jimmy Liberty and Andrew Heil are serving as Assistant Scoutmasters, and former Troop 214 Scouts and adult leader Mr. Harold Liberty are serving on the National Staff. We wish our Jambo attendees a great time, and look forward to hearing about their adventures at Scouting's 100th birthday party!

**Summer Camp -** Ah summer camp....where boys of all types become a close band of brothers, where advances in rank are earned on a fast track, where new hobbies are tried, new skills are learned, and new memories are formed - and where first-year Scouts take their first real steps towards becoming men. Our troop sent 28 Scouts to Camp Durant this year. That was the lowest attendance in several years, but it was a great group and we had a great week at camp.

But Scouts don't go to camp for a week without the support of adults. While we were enjoying the comforts of home and air conditioning during the searing temperatures of July 4th week, a few good men were toughing out the week at Camp Durant with our Scouts. During one of the Central NC's hottest weeks ever, these men were on duty 24/7 ensuring our boys were having a good experience and watching over them. Many thanks to Mr. Stuart Thomas, Mr. David Burdett, Mr. Alan Proffitt and Mr. Greg Jones who gave up their vacation time (and comfort) to attend summer camp. We owe them a debt of gratitude. Also thanks to the additional drivers who transported scouts to or from camp. Many, many thanks to Mr. Bill Dvorak for handling camp registration, and to Ms. Janice Gold for handling all the medical forms. Apologies to anyone missed in the thanks, as there were a number of other adults who helped out in numerous ways. Our own Stephen Frein was also a youth camp counselor, and he provided great service to our Scouts and to many of the other 500+ Scouts at camp that week.

There were zero hospital trips and zero complaints from other troop Scoutmasters or camp staff, which made it a good week on those merits alone. There were ***many*** other things that made it a great week. The worst thing we had to deal with was an unprecedented rash of first-year homesickness. But we all made it through that, and by the latter part of the week all of those Scouts were very happy to be there and were already discussing next year's summer camp with much anticipation and enthusiasm.

We walked out with an Honor Troop award, 20 Duty to God award recipients, a new OA "Brotherhood" member (Matthew Fiely), Graham Holmes received a Shotgun award, and most importantly all of our Scouts earned a lot of rank

advancement and learned/experienced many new things. We put forth the best troop skit at Durant for the second year in a row, which we honestly say with all personal bias aside. We also made very respectable showings in the camp-wide Tomahawk Race and the Huck Finn race, and both required great team efforts. Be on the lookout for a flood of rank advancement and merit badges being awarded to our Scouts at the next Court of Honor, and for early planning for Summer Camp 2011!

**Quote of the Month**

" No man drowns if he perseveres in praying to God, and can swim." Russian Proverb

**Joke of the Month**

A wealthy lawyer retreated for several weeks each year to his summer home in the backwoods of Maine. Every summer, he would a friend to stay with him there for a week or two. One summer he invited a friend from the Czech Republic to visit him. When the time came, they spent a wonderful time, getting up early every morning and enjoying the great outdoors. One morning, as the lawyer and his friend were picking raspberries and blueberries for their breakfast, they were approached by two huge bears, a male and a female. The lawyer noticed them in time to run for cover. His friend, however, was not so lucky. The male bear reached him and swallowed him whole. Seeing this, the lawyer ran back to his car and raced for the nearest town to get the local sheriff. The sheriff grabbed his rifle and raced back to the berry area with the lawyer. Luckily, the bears were still there. "He's in THAT one!" cried the lawyer, pointing to the male. The sheriff looked at the bears, leveled his gun, took careful aim, and shot the female. "What did you do that for?!" exclaimed the lawyer, "I said he was in the other bear!" "Exactly," replied the sheriff. "Would you believe a lawyer who told you that the Czech was in the male?""

*(Source: www.netglimse.com)*

Thanks to Scoutmaster Mr. Harold Hodnett, adult leaders Mr. Stuart Thomas, Mr. Mike Jones, Ms. Katrina James, and Troop 214 OA Representative Matthew Fiely for contributing to this month’s newsletter.

**Pictures from the April Cycling Campout**

*Thanks to Mr. David Burdett for sharing these!*

