

**Troop 840, B.S.A.**

|   |                   |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Troop Committee</b>  | Date of Meeting:  | August 04, 2007 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
|   | Time of Meeting:  | 8:00 AM         |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| <p>Facilitator: Chris Griffiths<br/>                 Title of Meeting: Scheduled Monthly meeting<br/>                 Location: Valley Ranch Baptist Church, Coppell, TX<br/>                 Notetaker: Matt Bohn</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Paul Bauer</td> <td style="width: 50%;">John Hopper</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matt Bohn IV</td> <td>Lynell Huffmaster</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matt Bohn V</td> <td>Tim Owen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susan Davis</td> <td>John Radford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Durso</td> <td>Mike Santy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anna May Ghaly</td> <td>Don Schuh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Ghaly</td> <td>Ken Towe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Green</td> <td>Deb Trejo</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Griffiths – Committee Chair</td> <td>Randy Wilkinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Master Harvey - SPL</td> <td>Mark Williamson</td> </tr> </table> |                   |                 | Paul Bauer | John Hopper | Matt Bohn IV | Lynell Huffmaster | Matt Bohn V | Tim Owen | Susan Davis | John Radford | Mark Durso | Mike Santy | Anna May Ghaly | Don Schuh | Chris Ghaly | Ken Towe | Gary Green | Deb Trejo | Chris Griffiths – Committee Chair | Randy Wilkinson | Master Harvey - SPL | Mark Williamson |
| Paul Bauer  | John Hopper       |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Matt Bohn IV  | Lynell Huffmaster |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Matt Bohn V   | Tim Owen          |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Susan Davis   | John Radford      |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Mark Durso  | Mike Santy        |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Anna May Ghaly  | Don Schuh         |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Chris Ghaly   | Ken Towe          |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Gary Green  | Deb Trejo         |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Chris Griffiths – Committee Chair   | Randy Wilkinson   |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |
| Master Harvey - SPL   | Mark Williamson   |                 |            |             |              |                   |             |          |             |              |            |            |                |           |             |          |            |           |                                   |                 |                     |                 |

**Agenda**

| Item                                       | Notes  |
|--|--|
| I. Call to Order                           | Chris Griffiths  |
| II. Reflection on recent events            |  |
| Summer Campouts                            | Camp Constantin<br>H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation<br>Sea Base |
| Weather Committee                          | Mark Durso   |
| III. Coordination of next events           |  |
| Police/Firemen’s Softball Game             | August 5 <sup>th</sup> , Debbi Bohn – Be there by 6:00 p.m.    |
| Program Preview                            | August 6 <sup>th</sup>   |
| August Campout                             | August 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , Beaver’s Bend      |
| Join Scouting Meeting                      | August 14 <sup>th</sup> , FUMC                                 |
| Troop Election Night                       | August 14 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Annual Planning Conference                 | August 18 <sup>th</sup> , Cedar Creek Lake                     |
| Meet and Greet                             | August 21 <sup>st</sup> , Lunch VRBC                           |
| Court of Honor                             | August 26 <sup>th</sup> , Sunday, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.            |
| Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review |  |
| Popcorn Kickoff                            | August 27 <sup>th</sup> PPUMC                                  |
| St. Ann’s Carnival                         | September ?  |
| Den Chief Training                         | September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 8:30 a.m. PPUMC                   |
| Chili Dinner                               | November 1 <sup>st</sup>                                       |

Words in **BOLD Italicized Type** have been added at the request of the reviewers after the initial publication of the meeting minutes or are changes or insertions to correct factual errors. These minutes were published in DRAFT FORM to provide timely communication between the Troop Committee and its Troop Members and their parents. Please understand that some of the information provided MAY be incorrect and subject to change upon further review by other attending Committee Members. Thank you!

| IV. Status Reports             |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Treasurer's Report             | Mark Tepper / Deb Trejo             |
| Roundtable Report              | Anna May Ghaly / Terry Smith        |
| Outdoor Activities/Summer Camp | David Hymer / Keith Markbreiter     |
| Membership                     | Missey Cox / Tracey Kersey          |
| Advancement                    | Lynell Huffmaster / Karen Griffiths |
| Training                       | John Hopper / Mrs. Roberts          |
| Equipment                      | Gary Green                          |
| Communications                 | Thomas Snawder                      |
| Transportation                 | Paul Bauer                          |
| V. Action Items                |                                     |
| Other Troop Needs              | Master Harvey                       |
| VI. Other Needs                |                                     |
| SPL Remarks                    | Master Harvey                       |
| SM Remarks                     | Terry Smith                         |
| VII. Summary & adjournment     |                                     |
|                                | Chris Griffiths                     |

Next Meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 8:00 a.m., Valley Ranch Baptist Church

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. Griffiths called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

#### II. Reflection on recent events

**Summer Campouts – Camp Constantin:** Mr. Owen said this was the first time we had a summer camp at a Circle 10 facility in four (4) years. We had 32 Scouts and four (4) adult leaders. It rained a lot but it didn't rain so much that everything was soaked all the time. The Scouts did lots of Merit Badges. Pretty compact camp, not difficult to get around. Dining hall was very crowded. They had about 150 more Scouts than they anticipated. Food was adequate. Activities that were planned were very good. Scouts had a really good time. The younger Scouts participated in the trail to first class program. Good place for the younger Scouts to go. No one got hurt. On Possum Kingdom Lake and offers motor boating, small boat sailing, large boat sailing. While we had agreed to go to a Circle 10 camp once every three years, it is quite obvious that this camp doesn't really compare favorably to Camp Hale or Camp Bartle or Camp Pioneer. Restrooms were deplorable. Most of the issues were with facilities but the management of the programs was not as good as those at Hale and some of the other camps we have recently gone to. We'll revisit the decision to go to an in council camp in a couple more years to see if the facilities have been improved.

**Summer Campouts – Camp Bartle:** Mrs. Ghaly said we had eight (8) Scouts and five (5) Adults. We had several Scouts that actually advanced within the Tribe of Mik-O-Say. We had a very good time. Weather was great. A good time was had by all!

**Summer Campouts – Sea Base:** Mr. Williamson said they had great weather. Nothing to compare it to but the facilities were nice. Dormitory style rooms with bunk beds. Air conditioning! Great food, everyone was safe and they swam with sharks, big turtles and other

sea life. They were very safe there and made sure everyone was well prepared before getting into the water. Double thanks to Mr. Kersey for setting up everything.

**Weather Committee:** Mr. Durso said that the others he talked to have a group of adults that get together to decide whether each trip is a “go or no-go” and let everyone agree on the decision. The group needs to be composed of the group of adults that actually go on these trips with the Scouts so there is a group of well informed adults making the decision. We should have a written guidance document so there are no people trying to guess about what the policy and practice is. They can decide to completely cancel the campout, decide to leave later that evening, go the next morning or to make a decision the following morning and delay the departure.

### III. Coordination of next events

**Police/Firemen’s Softball Game:** Tomorrow, Sunday evening, will be Coppell’s Annual Police versus Firemen Softball Game as a part of the National Night Out festivities. Debbi Bohn is coordinating this event between Troop 840 and CPAC (Citizen’s Police Academy Coppell) to provide the police, firemen and their family members with hot dogs and refreshments. Our Troop will also present the colors at the start of the softball game. We have five adults and ten Scouts signed up to present the colors, cook and serve hot dogs and to clean up afterward. The Scouts earn service hours and everyone has a great time. Come and cheer on your favorite police or fireman! The game starts at 7:00 but all of those that signed up are asked to arrive by 6:00 to set up and to ensure we’re there ready to present the colors when needed. The event is held at Andy Brown Central on Denton Tap Road.

**Program Preview:** August 6<sup>th</sup> at Plymouth Park United Methodist Church. Mr. Ghaly and Mr. Griffiths will represent our Troop.

**August Campout:** Our monthly campout will be held at Beaver’s Bend State Park in Oklahoma from August 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. Terry Smith will leave early with the white trailer to get a great campsite. Please make sure the Scouts have some insect repellent! Great hiking area.

**Join Scouting Meeting:** August 14<sup>th</sup> at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Coppell. This is a training session for School Night for Scouting.

**Troop Election Night:** August 14<sup>th</sup> is Troop Election Night. Those that are elected on this day will have to go to the planning conference that weekend.

**Annual Planning Conference:** August 18<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Creek Lake will be both incoming and outgoing “green bars”. Leave the Church at 8:00 to 8:15, get to the lake by 9:30, plan the conference and then swim and return by 5:00 p.m.

**Meet and Greet:** August 21<sup>st</sup> at Valley Ranch Baptist Church a Luncheon will be held as a “Meet and Greet”. This is a Tuesday. We need to have a count of who will attend the luncheon. This will be an opportunity to put faces with names and for each group to meet the key members of the church and the Troop. We have already told them that we could have up to three (3) trailers after we acquire the new trailer.

**Court of Honor:** August 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. our Court of Honor will be held at Valley Ranch Baptist Church. Set up will begin at 2:00 p.m. The Church will be having their annual picnic which will end at 2:00 p.m. The recommendation is to have each Scout's name and all merit badges listed on a type written sheet so it can be read quickly and is not subject to being able to read a hand written card. The cutoff date for advancement for this Court of Honor will be August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review:** Assistant Scoutmaster, Tim Owen, drafted a communiqué to be sent to the parents of all Scouts and what a Scout can expect in a Scoutmaster conference. These two documents are attached at the end of these minutes. Mr. Owen explained why he believes this is essential to communicate and to set expectations properly for these important events in a Scouts' life.

It is our intent to have a Board of Review scheduled for at least one week following the Scoutmaster Conference. They will not typically be conducted on the same evening. This will allow the Troop to properly schedule resources for these major events in the Scout's life.

**Popcorn Kickoff:** August 27<sup>th</sup> at Plymouth Park United Methodist Church (PPUMC) in Irving, the annual Popcorn Kickoff will be held.

**St. Ann's Carnival:** Mr. Durso will determine if we are to provide overnight security for St. Ann's Carnival this year and what the dates are for this event.

**Den Chief Training:** September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at PPUMC Circle 10 will conduct Den Chief Training. Quite a few of our Scouts will attend the Den Chief Training.

**Chili Dinner:** November 1<sup>st</sup> at Coppell High School. Mark Williamson said we have been approved to for Thursday night, November 1<sup>st</sup>, a junior varsity football game. Mr. Williamson will transition responsibilities to Chris Griffiths. Chris will find people to be responsible for different segments of the Chili Supper. It will be broken down into four (4) major tasks (Marketing and Publicity, Professional Shopper, Event Director, Iron Chef) with great documentation. Thank you for the organization, Mr. Williamson! The vote was taken and all agreed that it will be OK for the Thursday night game.

**September Campout:** The Committee is proposing to have the September campout the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Location TBD. Members of the Committee have proposed that we decide to have our campouts the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month. This will be discussed at the Planning Conference.

#### IV. Status Reports

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Griffiths provided the report which was prepared by Mr. Tepper. He reported that the Troop is still solvent and gave an excellent update. The trailer fund account didn't look like it increased by the amount contributed from the taste test event. Mr. Tepper will be asked if the funds were unintentionally directed to another account. There will be an emphasis on getting Scouts up to date on their dues. The Scribes will be given additional training on how to handle reporting of dues. Mr. Owen will assist in the training.

**Roundtable Report:** Mrs. Ghaly provided dates from the Program Preview guide for IOLS (Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills) training will be October 26<sup>th</sup> to October 28<sup>th</sup>. SALT is October 6<sup>th</sup>. December 8<sup>th</sup> is District Merit Badge College (location has not been specified yet).

**Outdoor Activities & Summer Camp:** These have all been discussed. The last group at Camp Bartle will return next Tuesday evening and will be reported at September's Committee Meeting.

**Membership:** Merit Badge counselors will need to make sure they are all properly signed up and registered with Membership. We would like to schedule an introduction to the VRBC 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> about Troop 840 and our activities.

**Advancement:** We have covered this in the comments above.

**Training:** John Hopper will be our new Training Coordinator. He will provide details in September after he gets "off the road".

**Equipment:** Gear reloading will need to take place on Wednesday evening next week so we can prepare for the campout next Friday through Sunday. A call for volunteers to help will go out on Tuesday evening.

**Communications:** Thomas Snawder was not available and could not attend. No report.

**Transportation:** Paul Bauer said that he is getting ready for our increased fall schedule of camping.

#### V. Other Action Items

**Other Troop Needs:** Our new SPL, Master Harvey did not have anything to discuss.

#### VI. Other Needs

**SPL Remarks:** Master Harvey did not have any comments.

**SM Remarks:** Terry Smith was on vacation and could not attend this meeting. Mr. Durso had some notes that he presented to the Committee. There should be no more than 5-minute presentations on Summer Camp since we had four (4) of them this summer. We need to have clean up of Troop Master to archive off adults that are not active registered adults. The Committee agreed to talk to Jane Bridges about the availability of the "old" troop laptop. Mr. Wilkinson said he will donate an older P3 laptop to the Troop and it will be available this Tuesday evening. We will perform a service project at Sandy Lake Road Baptist Church to replace the basketball backboards. This is planned for the third weekend in August.

#### VII. Summary and adjournment

Mr. Griffiths ended the meeting at 10:01 a.m. Next Committee Meeting, Saturday, 08-September-2007.

Dear Parents,

Each rank in Scouting, above Scout, requires a Scoutmaster conference. I have prepared the attached document in order to help you and your Scout understand the role of the Scoutmaster conference and to be prepared. The conference can be an anxious time for the Scout. We as Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters walk a fine line in making sure the Scout understands and completes all the requirements and in developing a working relationship with the Scout.

A Scout cannot fail a Scoutmaster conference, but that doesn't mean he will advance. If the Scout cannot demonstrate that he knows the requirements, he will be asked to go and practice and schedule another conference at a later date (hopefully the next week!). Our goal is not to discourage the Scout but to make sure they know the material. Many of these requirements are life-long lessons and are not just something you check off in a book. (One of the victims in the Virginia Tech shooting saved his life by using first aid that he learned in Scouting.)

As a parent, you can make sure they do not go into a Scoutmaster conference light heartedly and that they are prepared. If they say they are ready, you can trust them or you can ask them to get out their book and go through the requirements. You know your Scout best. But if your Scout doesn't advance as a result of his Scoutmaster conference, don't be upset with the Scoutmasters. Scouting is a learning experience and part of learning is learning to deal with set backs. Encourage him to keep trying. We will be happy to get older Scouts to work with any Scout that needs individual attention or help them in any way we can.

It is not your responsibility as a parent to schedule the Scoutmaster conference! It is the Scout's responsibility. Each Scout advances at his own pace. Don't try to force a Scoutmaster conference in order to meet a timeline for a court of honor. We have four courts of honor a year so the next one will soon be approaching. Planning is another skill we try to teach them and it doesn't help if a parent does it for them. Scoutmaster conferences can be arranged through Advancement or the Scout can speak directly with a Scoutmaster to arrange things. The Scoutmaster will check with Advancement to make sure all the requirements have been met.

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Mr. Smith, myself, or any of the other Assistant Scoutmasters.

## Scoutmaster Conference

### What is the purpose of the Scoutmaster conference?

It is a time for the Scoutmaster to develop a working relationship with the Scout and to gauge how he is doing in the troop.

### When can a Scout have a Scoutmaster conference?

A Scout can request a conference at any time they have an issue to discuss or they can request one for rank advancement. If the conference is for rank advancement, they must have completed all their requirements and have these documented in their Scout book. Conferences for advancement should be coordinated through the Advancement committee to ensure that all requirements (including 60% participation of meetings and campouts) have been achieved.

### Who conducts a Scoutmaster conference?

Traditionally, a Scoutmaster conference for the ranks of Star and above have been done by the Scoutmaster. For the ranks of Scout through First Class, the conference can be completed by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.

### Where can the Scoutmaster conference be held?

It does **NOT** have to be at the building where the troop meets on a regularly scheduled meeting night. One of the best times to schedule a conference is on a troop campout! The Scoutmaster conference can be held anywhere the Scout and Scoutmaster agree, as long as it falls within the guidelines of Youth Protection Training and Guide to Safe Scouting.

### What to Expect at a Scoutmaster Conference?

#### **Be On time. Be in uniform. BE PREPARED!!!**

Depending on the Rank, be prepared to demonstrate some of the requirements you've learned. Be able to discuss when and where you learned the requirements. Know who taught you and what lessons you learned.

**KNOW ALL YOUR KNOTS** up through that rank. Be able to tie them quickly and without hesitation (practice with your eyes closed!), and **BE ABLE TO DESCRIBE HOW THEY ARE USED.**

For Tenderfoot and above, be able to recite from memory the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and Motto and explain what they mean to you. Be able to tell how you practice them in your daily activities.

Be prepared to discuss the merit badges you've earned and what you have learned.

Be prepared to discuss your leadership position if it is a rank requirement.

Be prepared to discuss what you like about the troop and what you would like to see done differently.

Be prepared to discuss your goals for the next rank.