



What's the Point

Matinecock District Roundtable News and Events



April 11, 2013

What's Up (Coming)

April 2013

- April- 11 Roundtable & OA
- April 13 – Popcorn Champions Breakfast
- April 26-28 – Council Camporee at Southaven!

May 2013

- May 4 – District Pinewood Derby
- May 9 Roundtable & OA
- May 11 - Field of Wheels
- May 18 – Field of Wheels raindate
- May 23 – District Recognition Dinner
- May 25 – Flag Placement

Go to www.SCCBSA.org for a complete District and Council Calendar. Check Out the Training Events, too!

The *Council Wide Camporee* will be held at Southaven Park on April 26 - 28, 2013. This event will showcase the adventures of Scouting. Cubs, come for the day on Saturday and be sure to stay for the night time show. Overnight camping is available for Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, and Webelos. Tons of fun activities have been planned for all ages including water sports and shotgun shooting (for the older members), pioneering, archery and BB shooting, science, and belt loops (for the Cubs). To see the full list of activities and registration options, check the council website. Don't miss this exciting event!! Register today.

Mark your calendars for **MATINECOCK CUB FUN DAY**, Saturday, June 8, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at TJ Lahey Elementary School, 625 Pulaski Rd, Greenlawn. We are looking for Cub Scout Packs to participate at Cub Fun Day & help with the running of activity booths & games. Adults are also needed to be on the Committee as well as to help with various activities including a Cub Bike Rodeo. Flyers are available tonight. For more information contact Donna Reina at (631) 543-3994 email pack322@verizon.net; Josephine Ruby at (631) 864-9761, email jeruby43@optonline.net or Elaine Gray at (631) 924-7000 ext. 127, email grayshus1@aol.com.

Matinecock Scouters:

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone who has helped make the transition between District Executives as smooth as can be. I have had the pleasure of speaking with many of you either in person or on the phone but there are still many more I have yet to get acquainted with. While I have heard many positive things about Matinecock District there has been an underlying theme that one area that we all, from my role as Executive right on down the line, need to improve on is our communication. Coming from a background in television production, communication has always been an extremely important aspect of completing any project successfully and I bring that mentality with me to the Boy Scouts. I have already met with our Chairman Jim Montalto, Commissioner Scott Dammers, District Program Director Matt McEvoy as well as the District Committee and Commissioners to begin the implementation of new communication procedures to make all of our units better aware of what's going on not only in the District but also the Council. At the time of writing this I still do not have business cards but I have included all my contact information below and I invite you all to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have at any time.

YIS,
Bobby Rabbitt, Matinecock District Executive
7 Scouting Blvd, Medford, NY 11763
office: 924-7000 x117, cell: (631) 682-1602

“Scouting is a game with a purpose.”



Cub Scouting

83 Years of Wolves and Tigers and Bears! Oh, My!

May Pack Meeting Theme: Cub Café Core Value: Health & Fitness

Why Cub Café for the Core Value Health and Fitness? As Cub Scouts should be personally committed to care for our minds and our bodies. One way we care for our bodies is by what we feed ourselves. By choosing Cub Café as a theme, we can emphasize healthier choices, thus reinforcing our commitment to care for our bodies.

Opening Ceremony

The stage is set with a large kettle and a campfire. Inside the kettle and against one side is a folded flag, out of sight of the audience.

CUB SCOUT 1: Tonight we're going to fix for you a treat that's really grand and make for you a recipe—the grandest in the land.

CUB SCOUT 2: In first we'll put a heaping cup of red for courage true. (Pours in a container of red paper cut in small pieces)

CUB SCOUT 3: And then we'll add for loyalty a dash of heavenly blue. (Pours in a container of blue paper cut in small pieces)

CUB SCOUT 4: For purity we'll now sift in a layer of snowy white. (Pours in a container of white paper cut in small pieces)

CUB SCOUT 5: We'll sprinkle a pinch of stars to make it come out right. (Pours in a small container of silver stars)

CUB SCOUT 6: We'll stir and stir and you will see that what we've made is Old Glory. (Pulls out the flag and holds it up)

CUB SCOUT 7: Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world, Let's always be loyal to it.

CUBMASTER: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. (The flag is then placed on display.)

Opening Prayer

We give thanks for our health and those foods that we eat that help us be fit. May we all be personally committed to care for our minds and bodies.

Audience Participation

Play the game "My Cubmaster Cooks" with the entire group. Instruct the audience that if a Cub Scout names a healthy food to respond by saying "Good for you!" and if the food is unhealthy, respond by saying "Oh, no!" The first Cub Scout would say, "My Cubmaster cooks _____," and fills in the blank with something that starts with an A. The second Cub Scout would say, "My Cubmaster cooks (whatever the first Cub Scout stated starts with an A) and _____," and fills in the blank with something that starts with a B. Each subsequent Cub Scout says, "My Cubmaster cooks," repeats those foods listed by the Cub Scouts that went before him in alphabetical order, and then adds the new food that starts with the next letter in the alphabet. If a Cub Scout gets stuck while reciting the previous foods, he can do a stirring motion to signal he needs help from the rest of the group.

Closing Ceremony

Each Cub Scout should have a quarter of a poster board cut into the shape of an apple with his letter written in a large capital letter on the front side, and what he is going to say on the back side. The poster board should be attached to a paint stick so he can raise it into the air after he has said his lines.

H is for health. A state of strength and wellbeing is the type of health I want.

E is for eating the healthy choice of foods not only at the Cub Café, but every day.

A is for apple, a healthy, tasty snack choice that has fiber, too.

L is for lentils, a bean that is a good source of protein.

T is for tomato, a fruit full of vitamin C.

H is for happy, how I feel because I am healthy.

CUBMASTER: Thank you, _____ den, for the wonderful closing ceremony. Good night and healthy eating to all.



Webelos Scouts

Bridging to Boy Scouts

Webelos to Scout Transition – What’s the Story

Why do we need a transition plan from Webelos to Boy Scouts? Even though we all think of Cub Scouts, Webelos, and Boy Scouts as Scouting, the fact remains that many Scouters view Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts as separate programs. They aren’t. Statistics show us that every year approximately 35% of all Webelos Scouts do not move on to a Boy Scout Troop. There are many factors that contribute to this:

Increased competition from other activities - When boys are in the first grade and ready for Tiger Cubs, there are not many activities to compete with Scouting for a boy’s time and attention. As he gets older, more activities become available to him and compete for his time. When a boy is ready to move on from Cub Scouts, he is faced with many choices. We need to make sure that he has as much exposure to what’s ahead in Scouting as he has to other activities, such as baseball, soccer, basketball, football, etc.

Misunderstandings Between Parents and Troop Leaders - The Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs are fundamentally different in that Cub Scouting is a program put on by and run by the adult volunteers. Boy Scouting is designed to be a boy planned and run program with guidance and supervision from the adult volunteers. Due mostly to poor communication, enthusiastic parents of Webelos sometimes feel shut out by Boy Scout Troop leaders. Webelos parents need to be educated on the differences between the programs and led toward an understanding of the Boy Scout program.

Program Differences - Cub Scouting is an adult led, activity based program whereas Boy Scouting is a boy led, outdoor oriented program. The change in program activities can be intimidating to some boys. Sometimes, those that haven’t had outdoor experiences need to be eased into the program and their parents, particularly mothers, need to have assurance that their little boy (because that is still what he is) is going to be okay.

Improper Assimilation into a Troop - When the boys were cubs, they were all pretty much on an equal level, in terms of maturity. A Scout troop contains a much wider and diverse spectrum of levels of maturity. You have the young new scouts, and you also have the mature scouts, who, in reality, are not boys anymore but are young men ready for transitions of their own. A young Webelos thrust into a troop of much older boys will many times be intimidated and may be easily lost if not properly handled.

Lack of Interest from Troops - Sadly, many troops do not actively recruit Cub Scouts. If a troop doesn’t take an active role in the Webelos program, many boys will move on to other activities that have shown interest in them (For the most part, they won’t come looking for you). Boy Scout leaders can’t assume that everyone will automatically look to move on to Scouting. You are getting those that do already, we want the ones who don’t. In addition, boys will almost always follow their friends. If the troop is not actively pursuing these boys, a single boy will be very reluctant to go where he doesn’t know anyone.

Where Do We Go From Here - We must therefore prepare and plan for the transition well before it occurs. This means that we must start our plan when a boy “becomes” a Webelos, not when he is ready to crossover. In essence, the Webelos’ transition will begin long before he realizes or recognizes it.

The Bottom Line – Are we depriving boys of the opportunity to participate, enjoy and develop in Scouting? This should be a “Win-Win-Win” situation with the winners being the boys, the pack and the troop. The Webelos-to-Scout transition plan offers a clear path into Boy Scouting for every Webelos Scout, beginning early in his fifth grade year. By linking his Webelos den and a Boy Scout troop in a transition partnership, he is provided an opportunity, through joint activities, to sample the fun of Boy Scouting. As his Webelos advancement plan helps him prepare for Boy Scout advancement, he might also learn more about Boy Scouting through council and district activities designed to support the transition plan.

Let’s see what we can do by going to the Boy Scouts page of this issue.....See continuation on page 4



Boy Scouts

Where Eagles Dare

Watch Out for the Gap

Not just a warning for commuters stepping onto your train... There's a big "gap" between Webelos and Boy Scouts and many fall in. They either don't go on to a Boy Scout unit or they cross over, come to one or two meetings and you lose them after one camping trip. Sometimes they don't go on even one camping trip. So when are they in our (Boy Scout) jurisdiction? And how hard should we have to work to keep them? Can a boy who is on the fence about facing the hardship of camping in rain and cold weather be convinced that he one day will see that as fun? Can parents who see graduating from Cub Scouts their chance to get scouting off their list of weekly drop-offs and pick-ups be convinced that scouting will pay back for their efforts? Does the job of attending to the concerns, fears and apprehensions of first year scouts and/or their parents fall on the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster of New Scouts, the Troop Guide or a member of the Committee? Possibly all of the above, but most certainly the Troop Guide and ASM of New Scouts. Both should be looking to ease any fears and concerns of camping or expectations for advancement. The Troop Guide should be the person on point to make new scouts feel like part of the unit and protect them against any kind of hazing or teasing that might make a new scout want to stay home just to avoid the discomfort. Getting the new scouts advanced to Scout and working on Tenderfoot right away can go a long way toward investing a new scout in the program. Of course, here more than at any other level, immediate recognition is key. Be sure the new scouts are part of every game and Troop meeting activity, as long as they can feel included and capable. Don't allow them to be forced to succeed beyond their limited capabilities. For example, encouraging a new boy to join a difficult hike with a full pack in his first few months will almost guarantee his pulling away from future Troop outings. Think of their Webelos camping experience and arrange for a camping trip or short hike that is just a notch above in difficulty. Be sure they are properly outfitted and know what to expect before they commit to an outing. Then be sure ASM and Guide are on that trip to do their respective jobs. Do this and you'll lose a lot less boys to the "gap".

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Getting Webelos into Boy Scouts

Everyone has a role to play

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ▶ Webelos Den Leader | ▶ Unit Commissioner |
| ▶ Webelos Den Chief | ▶ Parents |
| ▶ Scoutmaster | ▶ Boy |

Webelos Den Leader's Role

- Most influential in the Boy's preparation. Make sure you are trained.
- Should have the Webelos function as a patrol, not a den
- Should verify the presence of the necessary Scout skills
- Should insure that the boys have their outdoor experience such as Webelos Woods and attend summer camp
- Should attend Roundtables and get to know the Scoutmasters
- Attend a Troop meeting and recruit a Den Chief
- Plan the graduation/bridging ceremony and promote Troop summer activities
- Verify the transfer of documents (registration) to the troop

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Remember – Safety is always Job 1.



Training

Every Scout Deserves a Trained Leader

Up Coming Training Schedules and information

"Success in training the boy depends largely on the Scoutmaster's own personal example." - Robert Baden-Powell

IOLS: (Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills) and

WOLT: (Webelos Outdoor Leadership Training).

These courses complete the training continuum for your specific leader training.

These trainings will be held at: **Blydenburgh Park on May 17-19, 2013**

Please see the upcoming flyer for registration, or call the council office to register.

LNT: (Leave No Trace). Leave No Trace Training Course. Leave No Trace plays an important role in our current scouting continuum!!!

Training will be held at Baiting Hollow Scout camp on **April 12-14, 2013.**

Please see the council website for registration!! Sign up now!!!

NYLT: (National Youth Leadership Training) Every Unit deserves well trained youth leaders!!! This 6 day course will be held at **Baiting Hollow Scout Camp** this summer from **Saturday August 17, to Thursday August 22.** Please see the council website for further information.

WOOD BADGE: Every boy *deserves* a trained leader!!!

Training will be held on **September 20-22, 2013** at Baiting Hollow Scout Camp *and* **October, 12-14, 2013** at Schiff Scout Reservation. Please see the council website for flyer and registration!!!

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact Greg Aylmer @ 631-664-0089 or bsataxi@optonline.net.



Commissioner's Corner

Unit Service and Roundtable

Greetings Scouters: Many of the Webelos have crossed over to a troop at this time. Please follow up on both the pack and troop levels to make sure these boys are registered with the correct unit.

For the cub leaders this is a great time to promote your pack. With picnics fishing trips and camp outs what better time to say join our pack. Why not have the boys invite a friend for Cub Fun Day on June 8th at TJ Lahey School-Greenlawn. If you have any questions please speak with your unit commissioner, give me a call or send me an email,

Scott Dammers, Matinecock District Commissioner, Suffolk County Council BSA
631-549-2012, scott7748@msn.com



A Scout is Reverent

Religious Committees Activities

There will be Religious Services available for Jewish, Protestant and Catholics at the same time on Sunday morning at the upcoming SCC Southaven Camporee.

Catholic Committee on Scouting: www.ccos-drvc.org . Please share this information with your Unit's Religious Emblems Coordinator, Chaplain, Chaplain Aide, and those interested in these opportunities.

- Catholic Mass will be available at the Council Camporee on Sunday morning at 8:00am. This Mass fulfills a Catholic's Sunday Mass obligation.
- Save the Date: Cub Fun and Faith Day, Saturday, May 4 at St Lawrence the Martyr, Sayville, 8:30-3pm. The theme is: Year of Faith. Flyer with registration info is posted on District e-group.
- Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblems Boards of Review: Saturday, May 18. There will be only ONE Make-up date for missed reviews on *Thursday, June 6th*.
- Pope Pius XII Retreat: Rescheduled to May 18-19 at Kellenberg Marianist Retreat House. Contact Austin Cannon, Diocesan Office at 516-678-5800 ext 245 to register.

Jewish Committee on Scouting news:

- 2013 Annual Conclave will be an All Faith Conclave this year, being held at Baiting Hollow Scout Camp on May 31 to June 2. Forms and more info to follow – all meals included (Fri nite dinner to Sun breakfast), opportunity to work on religious emblems, earn merit badges, camp with your troop, etc. Open to Cub Scouts (Sat only), overnight for Webelos (camping with parent), Boy Scouts and Venture Crew members, Brownies and Girl Scouts.
- Next JCOS meeting will be on April 15 at 7:30pm at Temple Beth Chai in Hauppauge – all are welcome!

For information regarding any Jewish Religious Award, along with Eagle Scout Recognition requests for scouts of any faith, contact Phyllis Stein (265-8141 or thecamerlady@verizon.net) or the JCOS Chair Barry Kopeloff at 331-9460 or dodey48@optonline.net, National JCOS website: www.jewishscouting.org



Order of the Arrow

Shinnecock Lodges, Nissequogue Chapter serving the Matinecock District of the SCCBSA

Any questions please contact Bill Davis at matelope185@aol.com or 631-942-9093.
For more information about our chapter visit our web site: www.nissequogue.webs.com



Venturing

NER Venturing **Area 2 Apex** (formerly known as the Summit) for 2013 is going to be at Camp Mattatuck in CT April 26-28 2013. Put this event on your schedule as well. The **Theme** that was selected for this event is **“The District Games”** based on The Hunger Games. At each of the last two Area Venturing Planning meetings, we had more than 40 Venturer’s and advisors in attendance, so this is going to be an amazing event for Venturer’s and Venturing aged youth. Camp Mattatuck has one of the largest COPE courses in the NE Region, we have boating, shooting (and shotgun), and even a great mountain biking program.

Registration information is available (link will be forwarded). The cost is \$45 for a Tent site and \$50 for a cabin spot. All food and program materials are included as well (yes, the patch too). In addition, if you participate in the activities, you will be awarded a special “District Games Pin”. Like with past Area events, there will be a theme-based Saturday night dance.

Check the front page of the council website for the program flyer (link: http://sccbsa.org/docs/20130115_apex.pdf). You can also check the Area Venturing website: <http://nerventuring-bsa.org/areas/area-2/>.



Upcoming SCC VOA events:

Rafting, One day trip on May 5th (registration due by 4/18)

Weekend at BHSC – May 31-June 2

For Area 2 Venturing events, please contact Bob Koch, Area 2 Venturing Advisor, bobbbsa@optonline.net; 631- 981-1399 (land line) or 516-209-8162 (Cell)

If you need Suffolk County Council Venturing information, please contact Tim Green. tgreen@bnl.gov

District Classified Ads

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Webelos Den Chief's Role

- Act as a Webelos den resource for scout skills (This fulfills a requirement for leadership.)
- Help for the Webelos patrol and scout spirit
- Help operate the patrol
- Assist in the Arrow of Light and Cross Over ceremonies

Scoutmaster's Role

- Seek and establish links to packs. Include the transitioned Webelos in summer camp reservations
- Discuss program differences with Webelos' parents
- Discuss camp and Troop activity costs with Webelos' parents
- Have Webelos and their parents attend Troop meetings
- Become a part of the Pack graduation ceremony
- Assist in finding Den Chiefs for Webelos Dens
- Ensure all forms are completed
- Invite the Webelos Den Leader to become a part of the Troop
- Hold a pre-summer camp orientation for Scout skills

The Unit Commissioner's Role

- Determine which troops can accommodate more Scouts
- Work with the District Executive to create more units where necessary
- Ensure graduations are planned and attend graduations
- Track graduating Webelos and ensure they get registered as Boy Scouts
- Try and determine causes behind why particular Webelos do not join a troop (be tactful and discreet)

At a high level, here are some unit level steps for a successful Webelos to Scout Transition"

- Webelos Woods – key introduction to the outdoors and troops
- Den/Troop Partnership – This should be in place at the beginning of the fifth grade year
- Joint Activities - The fifth-grade Webelos den and the troop should hold several activities together.
- Webelos Advancement – the fifth grade boys should achieve their Arrow of Light by January
- Early Spring Graduation - Webelos Scouts participate in summer camp by getting them into the troop in time to prepare for Boy Scout camp

Do you have an upcoming event (scouting or community) that is relevant to the Matinecock district? Send an email to the editor for posting.

May 2013 Roundtable Program Themes (June Scouting Themes):

Cub Scout Core Value: Perseverance

Cub Scout Pack Meeting Theme(s) - options: Head West, Young Man; Over Horizon; Go for Gold

Webelos Activity Pins: Traveler, Artist

Boy Scout: Special Cooking

From: <http://www.boyscouttrail.com/themes/scout-themes-2013.asp>

“What’s the Point” is a publication brought to you by the Matinecock District Roundtable Staff. Edited by Mimi Puttre’ If you would like to contribute a news item please email it to Mimi at David.Puttre@verizon.net, deadline: Tuesday before roundtable.