

Down the Trail



May 21, 2007

Dear Buckskinners:

WOW! What a weekend and what a wonderful '07 course! The patrols finished this course with a flourish; the scout spirit was everywhere. We were blessed with new hats, hand-carved slides, and wonderful weather. Yea, it was a little over-cast, but the temperature was right and the humidity was down. Thank you Great Spirit.

The weekend started on Friday with the Troop Guides and Quartermasters arriving to setup, continue bonding and preparing the festivities. The patrols were greeted Saturday morning by another great Nature Trail presented by Rob Hook, class of 1999. Rob has prepared a wonderful Tree Key for Cricket Holler that can be found at <http://www.mvcbsa.com/cricket.html>. There were two plant identification trails that the patrols traveled to their campsites. The results were impressive and all had loads of fun.

The Senior Patrol Leader and his worthy Assistant made a "once in a lifetime" discovery on Saturday morning. Along the trail in the vicinity of camp Dan Beard was a baby fawn only hours old. Photos of this gift are included on the photo disc for '07 even though we did not divulge this discovery or its location. Discoveries of this nature must be enjoyed and revered as a treasure, but kept quite secret, especially from a large troop of curious teen-aged scouts. Unfortunately, the mass of traffic generated and the resulting intrusion into the wildlife's habitat would endanger the life of the animal, possibly causing abandonment by the doe. Therefore, we arranged for photos that you can enjoy, while those who discovered this treasure can hold this experience in their hearts.



Model Camp was a favorite of the patrols as well as the staff. Dana and Mike Hilleary fed us all once again with the many Dutch Oven recipes that they have acquired over the years. With at least three other cooking stations there was plenty to eat. Reflector Fires – Dick Dexter/Paula Wathen; Tin Can Cooking – Roger Youmans and Dick Baker; and last but not least, Dwight Matlock added his own special touch to Utensiless Cooking. Gotta love those Jalapeño Poppers! Model Camp was rounded out with the likes of Fire Lays, Camp Craft (gadgets), Backpacks, Tents and Sanitation and who could forget Lanterns and Fuels?

The closing campfire under the direction of Chief Thunderbuck, Steve "Forest" Kump, was as memorable as ever. Richard Baker and Roger Youmans did an admirable construction job on a fire that burned brightly not only for the required hour, but all through night, which required these two dedicated Quartermasters to sleep the night in the council ring tending to the inferno. I should also note that the lighting was as impressive as I can remember, thanks to the Troop Guides.

19 participants completed Buckskin '07, receiving their Buckskin neckerchiefs and 14 new staffers worked really hard to receive their Thunderbuck slide. We had a total of 50 staffers this year who continue to impress and amaze. All the hours of hard work, at camp as well as at home, are obvious when things just seem to fall together on the Trail. It was an absolute pleasure and true honor to serve with this great group of gifted and committed people who have the never ending passion for Scouts and Scouting.

Remember the upcoming workday at Cricket Holler on Saturday, June 2 at 9:00. Don't forget your "Brown Bag" lunch. Make frequent visits to this site for updates on all Buckskin activities, especially the Reunion on Saturday, September 15.

In Cheerful Service,

Dave

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"The High Adventure Learning Experience for the Troop Scouter."