



# Arrohattoc Drumbeat

Arrohattoc District  
Heart of Virginia Council  
Boy Scouts of America

Volume 1, Issue 1  
January 22, 2009

## Purpose of the Arrohattoc Drumbeat

The Arrohattoc Drumbeat is a new communications tool for the Arrohattoc District Committee. The goals of the Arrohattoc Drumbeat are:

- Share information with leaders in all units in the district
- Supplement the other methods of communications in the district, Roundtable, the HOV Council Courier and the district website
- Serve as a resource to find out what is going on in the district
- Serve as a resource for where to get training
- Serve as a resource to find out who is out there in the district and

council to help you answer questions

- Expand your knowledge of scouting
- Find out about volunteer needs in the district
- Expand as needed to meet the needs of the district; district and unit leaders; and most importantly the scouts that make up the district, the true reason we all do what we do to support scouting

The Arrohattoc Drumbeat Editorial Board consists of the District Committee Chairman, District Commissioner, District Program Chair, District Executive

and the Newsletter Staff (did I mention that this is one the volunteer needs in the district?).



MI 2008-Cub Scouts enjoyed learning new skills such as archery.

## What is the Arrohattoc District

Arrohattoc District includes Chesterfield County south of Powhite Parkway and Old Hundred Road, north of Happy Hill Road, and west of Interstate 95 and Amelia and Notoway Counties.

A district is a geographic area designed to support Scouting

in an area through training, program planning, and support. A district committee is composed of volunteers who deal with specific tasks, including membership, program, and finance. The district also has a commissioner staff. A unit commissioner is assigned to coach your unit adults, help

solve problems, and provide other guidance as needed.

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### Arrohattoc's Eagles

- Send in the name of your Eagle Scouts and their Troop or Crew.
- Send in the name of your Arrow of Light Scouts and their Pack

**Arrohattoc District Training Dates - (through April 2009)**

**ALL LEADERS** should take (if they have not already done so) the following:

**Fast Start Training**

Available on the Internet - link from [www.scoutingvirginia.org](http://www.scoutingvirginia.org)

**Youth Protection Training**

Available on the Internet - link from [www.scoutingvirginia.org](http://www.scoutingvirginia.org)

**New Leader Essentials**

February 17 (7:00), Hopewell United Methodist Church (Kathy MdKee is the contact)

March 24 (7:00), Hopewell United Methodist Church (Kathy McKee is the contact)

**CUB LEADERS** should take the following:

**New Leader Essentials** (see above)

**Cub Leader Specific**

February 20 (5:30), Southside Church of the Nazarene (Kathy McKee is the contact)

**Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)** - at least two leaders in each pack should take this.

January 31, Council led

**Webelos Leader Outdoor Training (OWL)**

April 17-19, Camp T Brady Saunders

**University of Cub Scouting (POW-WOW),**

March 21, location TBA, Council led

**BOY SCOUT LEADERS** should take the following:

**New Leader Essentials** (see above)

**Boy Scout Leader Indoor**

March 28, Hopewell United Methodist Church (contact Jamie Walker)

March 7, University of Richmond (includes Boy Scout Leader Specific Training) (track at Commissioner College) (contact is Al Best-Cardinal District)

**Boy Scout Leader Outdoor**

April 17-19, Camp T. Brady Saunders (contact Jamie Walker)

**VENTURE CREW LEADERS**

**Venture Leader Training**

March 25, University of Richmond (track at Commissioner College)

**Venturing Quest Weekend**

April 24-26, location TBA, Council led

**ANYONE WHO DOES TRAINING AT COUNCIL, DISTRICT OR UNIT LEVEL:**

**Training Development Conference** (must re-certify every three years)

February 21, Methodist Training Center, Staples Mill Road, Council led

**ALL LEADERS - ANY LEVEL**

**Commissioner College:** Great opportunity to understand the BSA "big picture"; all Unit Commissioners and anyone interested in Unit Service should attend

March 7, University of Richmond, Council led, contact: Marian Fletcher

**Contact Information:**

Kathy McKee - Arrohattoc Cub Training Chair: [tkjjm@comcast.net](mailto:tkjjm@comcast.net)

Jamie Walker - Arrohattoc Boy Scout Training Chair: 804-291-6317

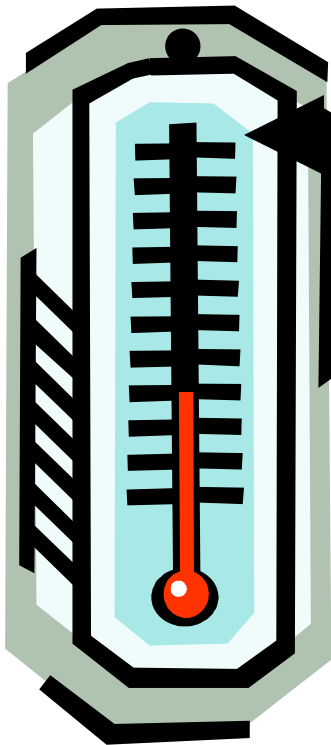
Marian Fletcher - Arrohattoc District Commissioner: [FletcherFam@comcast.net](mailto:FletcherFam@comcast.net)

Al Best - Cardinal Training: [ALBest@vcu.edu](mailto:ALBest@vcu.edu)



## District and Council Key Events Calendar

Feb 1 / 8	National Date for Scout Sunday / UMC & Presbyterian Scout Sunday
Feb 21	District Pinewood Derby: <i>If you would like to volunteer please email Angela Matlaga at <a href="mailto:bakingwhiz27@aol.com">bakingwhiz27@aol.com</a></i>
Feb 26	FOS Dinner (Guest Speaker is Capt. James Lovell of Apollo 13)
Feb 27	Legacy of Eagle Breakfast
Apr 25	Scout Night at the Richmond Kickers
May 14	District Dinner
May 16-17	Cub Fun with Son
TBD	Arrohattoc Spring Camporee
Jun 6	Super Saturday (Council Program Planning Conference)
Aug 9-13	District Cub Day Camp



### Arrohattoc District Friends of Scouting Goal

**Is your unit helping achieve the District Goal?  
Has your unit set up its Friends of Scouting presentation?  
Contact your unit commissioner if you have questions?**

**Friends of Scouting is Scouting's largest and most important source of funding. The strength of the campaign, and in Scouting in general, lies with individuals who give their time, talent and resources to keep this great movement going. Scouting truly is a movement of individuals and organizations who believe in how we develop character, citizenship and leadership skills in youth.**



**Boy Scouts  
Monthly Themes**

<i>Boating/Canoeing</i>	<i>Aug</i>
<i>Public Service</i>	<i>Feb</i>
<i>Cultural Diversity</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Wildlife Management</i>	<i>Apr</i>
<i>Camping</i>	<i>May</i>
<i>Emergency Preparedness</i>	<i>Jun</i>
<i>Health Care</i>	<i>Jul</i>

**Cub Scouts  
Monthly Themes**

<i>Fun in the Sun</i>	<i>Aug</i>
<i>American ABC's</i>	<i>Feb</i>
<i>When I Grow Up</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Jurassic Park</i>	<i>Apr</i>
<i>Leave Nothing but Footprints</i>	<i>May</i>
<i>A Camping' We Will Go</i>	<i>Jun</i>
<i>Be a Sport</i>	<i>Jul</i>

**Past Roundtable Info**

The last District Roundtable included a discussion on how to make Roundtables even better. Based on the discussion, here are some items being looked at by the Roundtable Team:

- Add periodic breakout sessions on training topics like “How to conduct a Board of Review”; “New Leader Essentials”; “Meeting Planning”
- Add periodic training

- Add problem and answer sessions
- Present monthly themes further out, so leaders can use them in their planning

**What everyone wants to continue at Roundtables**

- Great networking opportunities with fellow leaders

- Opportunities to interact with the District Committee and District Executive
- Eagle Scout Project review
- Information sharing on upcoming events
- Fellowship and camaraderie with fellow leaders

**Upcoming Roundtable Events - Boy Scouts**

The District Roundtable Team is looking at some exciting changes to future Roundtables. Stay tuned for more info. The Roundtable Team needs volunteers to help continue these valuable leader meetings. If you want to join the team, please contact your unit commissioner.

**everything that is offered by participating in District Roundtable meetings?**

**Is your unit taking advantage of**

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## Training— Every Scout Deserves a Trained Leader

### What Does It Take to Earn Your Trained Tab

**Cub Scout leaders** are considered trained when they have completed New Leader Essentials and the Cub Scout Leader Specific training for their position.

**Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters** are considered trained when they have completed New Leader Essentials, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

**Troop committee members** are considered trained when they have completed New Leader Essentials and the Troop Committee Challenge

as their Leader Specific training.

**Varsity Scout leaders and assistants** are considered trained when they have completed New Leader Essentials, Varsity Scout Leader Specific Training (available April 2002), and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

**Venturing crew Advisors, assistant Advisors, and crew committee members** are considered trained when they have completed New Leader Essentials and Venturing Leader Specific Training.

The District Training Team is ready to answer your training questions.

Training gives you the skills needed to work with scouts, whether you were ever a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venture Scout, Girl Scout or this is your first time in scouting. It's also a way for "old-timers" to update their skills and ideas.

We have a world-class training team with years of experience, put them to the test.

### What Do They Do?

So what does a District Executive do?

*The district executive is responsible for managing the overall growth, extension, quality, program enhancement and supervision of the Scouting program within a specified geographical area. The district executive achieves this by identifying, cultivating, recruiting and guiding adult volunteers who in turn support, train and motivate the adult volunteers who deliver the Scouting program to youth. Job responsibilities are broad and varied. Duties include recruiting, promoting, supervising and working with local volunteers. Part of your time is spent in the office while the other share is spent in the field, checking out the action in your service area to ensure that goals and objectives are met.*

*In the words of our District Executive, Marcus Ragland—*

In other words, I'm the one who is paid to harass people until they turn in membership and participate in FOS. Just kidding.

I make sure we have the right people in the right jobs at the right time so we can meet objectives we set for ourselves annually in 4 different areas:

Membership  
Finance  
Program  
Unit Service

The volunteers do 99.999999% of the work. But what doesn't get done, I'm accountable for.

## Ask A Question

Question (Bears Den Leader): I asked parents to initial off on some requirements that the scouts needed to do at home, so I could then sign off in the book for advancement. When I was later talking to the scout, it was clear that he had not done the requirement. So what do I do?

Answer (Cub and Webelos Leader, ASM): This is a touchy area because you are trying not to alienate or embarrass the parents, but you still want to make sure the cub works the requirements, because everything in scouting is a building block to something else. A possible starting point for this is for you to work with your Cubmaster on teaching parents "Scouting 101". You want to have them buy in to the methods scouting uses to teach scouts. Now that there is a lot of training available

on-line, I encourage all new parents take New Leader Essentials. It's the beginning point of getting them to understand how things are done. Then you can follow up with parents on the need for the scouts to complete the requirements that you send home. Let parents know that while they are initialing off, you are going to do activities to reinforce the requirements and the scout will be asked to talk about what they have done. Then you will sign off in the handbook.

## Commissioner Corner

### What is a Unit Commissioner?

A Unit Commissioner is a volunteer like you with some background in Scouting and the ability to empathize with and understand the problems unit leaders face when trying to operate Scouting's programs.

### What does a Unit Commissioner do for the Unit?

A Unit Commissioner is asked to provide service to one or several

units. He or she becomes their main contact within the district and council.

No list can encompass all the tasks they may be called to perform, but the following are top priority for the Unit Commissioner:

- Help each unit earn the Centennial Quality Unit Award
- Visit Pack / Troop / Crew meetings
- Visit regularly with the unit leaders
- Help to assure effective and active unit

committees

- Make efforts to involve unit personnel in roundtables
- Establish good lines of communication.
- Help select and recruit unit leaders
- Cultivate and maintain an ongoing relationship with the unit leaders
- Know the district and council
- Facilitate the on-time annual charter renewal of units
- See that unit leadership participates in training

**Ask A Question is a way get that question you have been wondering about answered. It is anonymous and meant to generate discussion with your fellow leaders at all levels of scouting. The answers will come from veteran leaders based on their experiences. Submit a question using the Ask A Question Link on the district website.**



## Dirty Jobs host Mike Rowe is an Eagle Scout

Here is an exchange of letters posted to his blog.

Mike,

I'm not sure where I heard that you are an Eagle Scout, which brings me to my question. Could you PLEASE take a moment & post to my 13 year old son Kelby & encourage him to finish scouting (& anything else that will help with this?) Reason I'm asking is that he only lacks 1 1/2 - 2 years in reaching Eagle, but some of his buddies have got him to thinking scouting isn't cool at his age. Thanks much, Gary

Kelby,

Your Dad asked me to drop you a line and say something inspirational that might persuade you to dig down deep and find the determination to make the rank of Eagle Scout. It's a reasonable request, from a father who obviously wants to see his son succeed. But here's the thing - The Eagle Award is not really meant for people who need to be dragged across the finish line. It's meant for a select few, and I have no idea if you have the guts to see it through.

Statistically, I suspect you do not. Only one out of a hundred Scouts make Eagle, so if you fail, there will be lots of other people with whom you can share excuses. Quitting now might disappoint your Dad, but I doubt that he or anyone else will be overly surprised. Anytime 99 out of 100 people do the same thing, it's not exactly a shock.

I'm not trying to be cute with a bunch of reverse psychology. When I was 15, there was nothing that anyone could have said to me that would have inspired me to do something I didn't want to do, especially a stranger with a TV show. So I'm not going to assume you're any different, or pretend that I have some influence or insight that you haven't already heard from a dozen other people who actually know and care about you. I'll just tell you straight up, that doing something extraordinary can be very lonely, and most people simply aren't cut out for it.

Being an Eagle Scout requires you to be different than most everyone around you, and being different is really, really hard. That's why the award is called "an accomplishment."

Personally, and for whatever it's worth, the best decisions I've made in my own life, are those decisions that put me on the outside of being cool. Singing in the Opera, working in home shopping, starring in the school play when the entire football team laughed at me, and especially earning my Eagle, were all choices that required sacrifice, hard work, and delayed gratification. I have no idea if you possess those qualities, or even envy them. But I can tell you for certain, that NOT getting your Eagle, will be one of the easiest things you've ever done.

Anyway, I have no idea if you would prefer an easy life of predictability and mediocrity, or if have the passion to follow the road less traveled. Only you get to decide that.

Good Luck,

Mike



## DID YOU KNOW?

### **BSA has introduced a new Annual Physical Form replacing the Class 1, 2 and 3 Physical Forms**

**BSA has introduced a new Annual Physical Form and all leaders need to go to the BSA National Website to learn about the changes. On 1 January 2010, this will be the mandatory form for all physicals and there are some very significant changes. The most significant change is that there will be a requirement for participants in high adventure activities to meet standardized height/weight ratio requirements. Where these changes will be most noticeably seen is by Philmont and Jamboree participants.**

#### Why do we need a new health form?

Based on input from individual Scouters, the Order of the Arrow, local councils, health and safety and risk management committees, and high-adventure bases, there was confusion on when to use any of more than 20 different health forms in use across the nation. There was also an immediate need to update a medical form for the 2010 National Scout Jamboree. The Health and Safety Committee took on the challenge and the opportunity to establish one Annual Health and Medical Record for all ages and known risks. It is simple and yet comprehensive enough to be used for both health and wellness evaluations as well as emergency situations.

**The info below is directly from BSA Form24605**

## **Annual Health and Medical Record**

**(Valid for 12 calendar months)**

### **Medical Information**

The Boy Scouts of America recommends that all youth and adult members have annual medical evaluations by a certified and licensed health-care provider. In an effort to provide better care to those who may become ill or injured and to provide youth members and adult leaders a better understanding of their own physical capabilities, the Boy Scouts of America has established minimum standards for providing medical information prior to participating in various activities. Those standards are offered below in one three-part medical form. Note that unit leaders must always protect the privacy of unit participants by protecting their medical information.

**Parts A and C** are to be completed annually by all BSA unit members. Both parts are required for all events that do not exceed 72 consecutive hours, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, such as day camp, day hikes, swimming parties, or an overnight camp, and where medical care is readily available. Medical information required includes a current health history and list of medications. Part C also includes the parental informed consent and hold harmless/release agreement (with an area for notarization if required by your state) as well as a talent release statement. Adult unit leaders should review participants' health histories and become knowledgeable about the medical needs of the youth members in their unit. This form is to be filled out by participants and parents or guardians and kept on file for easy reference.

**Part B** is required with parts A and C for any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, a resident camp setting, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding, such as service projects, work weekends, or high-adventure treks. It is to be completed and signed by a certified and licensed health-care provider—physician (MD, DO), nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant as appropriate for your state. The level of activity ranges from what is normally expended at home or at school to strenuous activity such as hiking and backpacking. Other examples include tour camping, jamborees, and Wood Badge training courses. It is important to note that the height/weight chart must be strictly adhered to if the event will take the unit beyond a radius wherein emergency evacuation is more than 30 minutes by ground transportation, such as backpacking trips, high-adventure activities, and conservation projects in remote areas.

**For more information, please go to the BSA National Website**

**<http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Resources/MedicalFormFAQs.aspx>**



Good Turn for America is a national call to service by the Boy Scouts of America to address the issues of hunger, homelessness and poor health in our nation. In this effort, the Boy Scouts of America is partnering with some of the nation's most respected service organizations, including The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, America's Second Harvest, and the Department of Homeland Security. These organizations and thousands of others will work to provide opportunities for youth and volunteers to fight hunger and homelessness, and teach the habits of healthy living.

Youth and volunteers are looking for ways to serve their communities. At the same time, service organizations need dedicated volunteer help. By working together, we can improve our young people, our communities and the nation.

Good Turn for America is also a long-term effort to record good turn projects done in our communities. Every unit is assigned a unique Good Turn for America ID number with which to record information about service projects on the special web site set up for this purpose.

Service projects may be entered throughout the year as they are done, no matter how big or small. After you enter the data for each project, your unit will be eligible to receive the Good Turn for America patch and year segment which can be obtained from the Scout Shop.

All you need is your unit's Good Turn for America ID number. If you do not have your unit's Good Turn for America ID number with which to enter the information on the website, contact the Council Office.

<http://www.goodturnforamerica.org>



## **Are you a Den Leader looking for help planning meetings?**

**There is probably no Den Leader that can ever tell you that they never found it a challenge to plan Den meetings and ensure their scouts were on the path to advancement. BSA though has now developed a great tool for Den leaders that will save you time and keep your scouts on track, Fast Tracks.**

### **How can Fast Tracks help me as a leader?**

This Web-based, advancement-rich program was developed to help den leaders organize meetings so that the majority of boys' advancement takes place in the den alongside their fellow Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, or Webelos Scouts. Fast Tracks is available for all levels of Cub Scouting and any size den. This program provides den leaders with easy, step-by-step instructions, as well as an inclusive listing of materials. It takes the guesswork out of planning the den meeting. Moreover, the outline for each program level ensures the completion of rank requirements in a timely manner and assures that each boy will reach significant advancement on a more regular basis.

### **But does the Fast Tracks den advancement plan work?**

It makes the den leader's job easier. It ensures delivery of a high-quality program.

It provides measurable results. In 2006, this pilot program was expanded to 10 councils in the Central Region of the Boy Scouts of America. The program consistently increased quality of delivery, which resulted in keeping active boys in the den all year.

## **For More Information**

**<http://scouting.org/CubScouts/FastTracks.aspx>**





Arrohattoc District  
Heart of Virginia Council  
Boy Scouts of America

## Arrohattoc District Key 3

Chairman-Mr. Gary Gibbs  
Commissioner-Ms. Marian Fletcher  
Senior District Executive-Mr. Marcus Ragland

### The Legendary Arrohattoc District



District Website Address  
<http://www.arrohattoc.org>



### Boy Scouts of America's Centennial Commemorative Coin Receives Presidential Approval

*Scouting Activities in Underserved Areas to Benefit from Share of Proceeds*

Dallas, October 16, 2008—President Bush recently signed into law the Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (H.R. 5872) which authorizes the minting of 350,000 silver dollar coins in recognition of BSA's 100th Anniversary in 2010. Only two commemorative coins are selected for U.S. Mint production each year, and minting of the coins for 2010 will occur between February 8, 2010 and January 1, 2011. For each coin sold, there is a \$10 surcharge - representing a \$3,500,000 donation - that will be made available to local councils in the form of grants for the extension of Scouting in hard to serve areas.

## Mission Impossible 2008

On the rainy Friday evening of October 24, 2008 local scouts converged on Finley Albright Scout Reservation for an event unlike any undertaken before by scouts in central Virginia. During this weekend event, dubbed "Mission Impossible 2008", scouts became secret agents participating in fun-filled "covert operations" throughout the camp. "Mission Impossible 2008", was set apart from other scouting events in that the bulk of the activities for older scouts took place under the cover of darkness.

Activities were not limited to evening hours and activities for older scouts, during daylight on Saturday Cub Scouts enjoyed archery, shooting BB guns, and working on teamwork skills. Nearby older squads of scouts met local law enforcement officers who helped the scouts with fingerprinting on their Secret Agent ID badges. As the afternoon went on scouts were given a daylight walk-through to all mission stations and a briefing on what to expect so that when night missions started

scouts would be able to navigate through camp. The younger cub scouts departed camp following an American flag retirement ceremony prior to the start of night missions for the approximately 500 older scouts.

"As darkness enveloped the Theater of Operations, squads silently took to the field and mission operations were put in motion. Picture this, it's very dark, there's almost 500 scouts in motion, dozens of stations are in limited light operation, and the squads are navigating among it all."

Key to success during the evening event was the squads' ability to not only use their scouting skills but to work together. Scouts were not informed that "teamwork" was the key to success in the night missions they performed. To the Scout Leaders' awe and delight their young charges strategize, organized, established a chain of command, and executed the tasks they confronted as cohesive teams.

According to Mission Impossible 2008 Operations Leader, Chris Sherman, there were no reported incidents of misbehavior among the attendees at camp that weekend. "We had nearly 500 scouts, maneuvering in the dark as self-supervised squads throughout the evening and we had no reported problems. This speaks volumes for all of the scouts and leaders as well as the BSA scouting program." Sherman said.

The Arrohattoc District's goal was to provide a memorable event that offered something for scouts of all ages and was suitable for all units, including the coed Venture Scouting program. As weary scouts passed event organizers on their way out of camp on Sunday, their smiles and thumbs up let the organizers of Mission Impossible 2008 know their mission to provide an over-the-top camping experience could be classified as "mission accomplished."



"Secret Agents" give thumbs up when asked, "Are you having a good time?"



The mission called Laser Gauntlet was a huge hit with scouts and leaders. Black lights and mason's string made a credible "laser maze" through which squads of agents had to maneuver.

