

The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003
May 2017 Issue

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Go Nomad! *(This is not a cheer for your local sports team)*

Go Nomad is the theme for the 2017 Asia/Pacific Region (APR) Jamboree being hosted by the Mongolian Scout Association in late July, early August 2017. Nomads wander and roam the countryside and this is still the habit for about one half of the population of Mongolia.

Mongolia is about one quarter the size of the USA but we have 100 times the population so that going around in Mongolia it seems very large and empty. About one half of their three million population live in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar (there are many acceptable spellings of this name in English).



The Jamboree is going to be held just outside the city limits of the capital city in the national children's center, a facility built by the Soviets in the late 1970s. The theme of Jamboree will celebrate Mongolian culture which includes horse riding, camel riding, archery and other cultural activities and exchanges including a visit to the dinosaur museum. Did you know that more dinosaur remains have been found in Mongolia than anywhere else?

It is expected that about 10,000 Scouts from APR Scouting organizations and other countries will be in attendance.

The weather in Mongolia has two extremes, very hot and very cold. July and August is the hot part and temperatures are usually in the high 90s and dry.

Although the Jamboree is short in duration, the BSA contingent will be gone roughly three weeks. Here's the plan: We will travel in a group, probably leaving from Salt Lake City to Beijing, China. A three day stop in Beijing to visit the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and other sites then board the train for an exciting overnight ride to Ulaan Baatar. Arrive in Mongolia and move directly to the Jamboree site.

Since Mongolia is so spread out the post Jamboree stay is planned for five days. This will offer the opportunity for home stay, sight seeing in UB (even the Mongolians shorten it) and side trips to various points of interest around the country. There will be an opportunity to develop a menu of options for visiting coming in future updates.

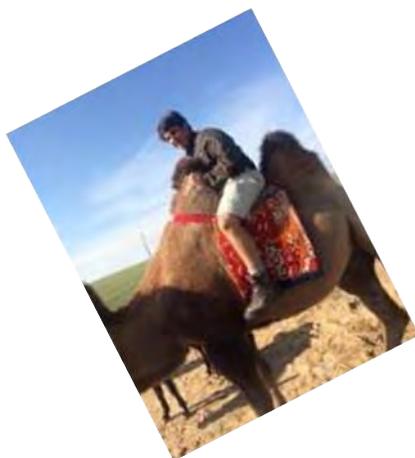
One must see is the giant (80 meter high) statue of Gengis Khan built on the site where he got his vision to spread conquer the world.

UB is a modern city in the midst of rapid growth. A special Scouting connection is that the lead architect for the design team on both the new international airport and the largest building in the country is a Scout and served as an International Camp Staff member in Camp Daniel Boone, NC in 2009.

After the Jamboree and visiting afterwards, we will fly directly from UB back through Beijing to Salt Lake City and then to your home towns. This travel will require both a valid US passport with at least six months remaining before the expiration date and a Chinese visa. Mongolia does not require a visa for short stays.

Head of contingent for this trip is Pete Armstrong, [28-654-9920](tel:28-654-9920), peteberet@aol.com. This event is a Daniel Boone Council event not a BSA national event.

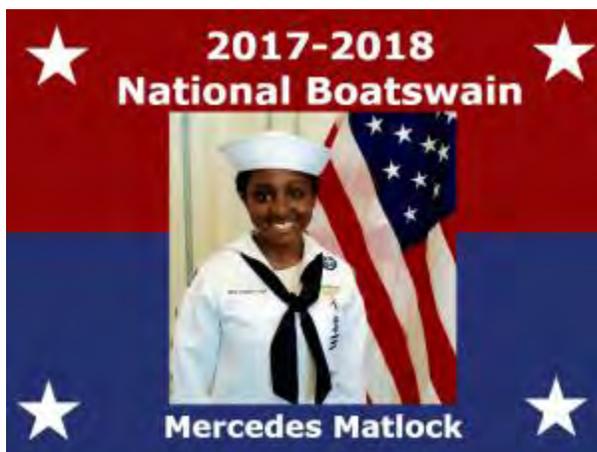
Since this is the bottom line I will tell you what I believe will be the bottom line, \$3000 all inclusive. Unfortunately this is an estimate because it is still too early to make the travel plans.



Announcing the 2017-2018 National Boatswain

by Sea Scouts, BSA | Mar 25, 2017

The National Sea Scout Support Committee announces the selection of Mercedes Matlock of Frederick, Maryland as the 2017-2018 National Sea Scout Boatswain.



Her term of office will be from June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018. She is a member of Ship 59, SSS Sea Dogs, chartered by the YMCA of Frederick, Maryland, of the National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Mercedes will be the youth representative for Sea Scouts across the United States of America. She will report to the National Commodore and the National Director of Sea Scouts. She will serve as the liaison to the Regional Boatswains and all other youth leaders. Mercedes is an Able Scout, and has

completed her quartermaster project and is waiting upon approval from council to have her board of review. During her time as a Sea Scout, she has served as her ship's Boatswain Mate of Program, Boatswain, and Purser, and the Northeast Region Boatswain Mate and Boatswain. She has worked as a camp counselor for three years at Boy Scout Camp Airy. She has served as a youth leader for Camp Lifeguard and is also a member of Crew 1998, a shooting sports based crew. She has earned her religious emblem and the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver awards. Mercedes has participated in several training programs to develop her skills as a leader. She graduated from both NYLT training (National Youth Leadership Training), and SEAL training (Sea Scout Advanced Leadership) courses. She has developed her seamanship skills by completing the Maryland Boating course, and competing in sailing regattas. She has earned the Mile Swim Award. She has earned certification as both a BSA, Red Cross lifeguard and Red Cross Waterfront lifeguard training. She has participated in the 2014 and 2016 William I. Koch International Sea Scout Cup and the 2013 and 2015 Northeast Regional Sailing Championships, earning 2nd and 3rd place finishes.

She attends Hampton University as a Pre-Med Biology Major in hopes of gaining her M.D. PhD. to become a Pediatric Cardiologist and complete medical research. She was recognized for academic achievement by being placed on the Dean's list. She is a member of the Hampton University Varsity Sailing Team, Biology Club, Chemistry Club, Pre-Medical Club, and MAPS (Minority Association for Pre-Medical Students).

Mercedes' overall goal is to expand awareness and recognition of Sea Scouting and represent Sea Scouts across the nation in the best possible manner. Her goals are to broaden the program by increasing the number of scouts, connecting the youth leaders from all regions, and increasing awareness of the program using social media by developing content for the Sea Scout YouTube channel.

Join us in congratulating Mercedes as the 2017-2018 National Sea Scout Boatswain!



SEAL 2017

Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership (SEAL) training teaches leadership skills while underway. It is designed to “jump start” the junior leaders of new Ships and to “fine tune” leaders of experienced Ships. It is a physically and mentally demanding and a remarkably rewarding hands-on leadership experience.

Qualifications to Attend

This course is open to any Sea Scout or Scout or Venturer at least 14 years of age on the first day of the course and not yet 21 on the last day of the course. To attend a participant must be at least Ordinary for Sea Scouts, Pathfinder for Venturers and 1st Class for Boy Scouts by June 1st prior to this course.

Skills Taught

Evaluation	Managing, Supervising & Commanding
Team Building	Motivating
Leadership	Counseling
Training	Problem Solving
Communicating	Planning & Preparing
Goal Setting	Implementing & Re-Implementing

2017 Course Locations and Dates

Additional course locations and dates might be added if required.

- Chesapeake Bay, MD June 23 – July 2, 2017
- Galveston Bay, TX June 30 – July 9, 2017
- Newport Beach, CA July 6 – 16, 2017
- Seattle, WA July 6 – 15, 2017
- Long Island Sound, NY August 5 – 13, 2017

Cost

Costs are from \$250 to \$290 not including transportation to and from the course.

Additional Information and Application

<http://seascout.org/youth-training-and-education/seal/>

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National Sea Scout
Support Committee
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079
972-580-7810
972-580-2430 fax
www.seascout.org

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Tuskegee Pilot Visits Crew 27 & Presents an Incredible Message

By Gen, NCAC Crew 27

Crew 27 had the unbelievable honor of hearing retired Air Force Colonel Charles McGee speak to us last Sunday, April 23. Colonel McGee is one of the last Tuskegee pilots in the United States. He served in three wars: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He currently holds the record for the most air combat sorties in the most wars with over 100 sorties each in the three wars he fought in! 407 combat sorties in all. He is retired from the United States Air Force, formerly the Army Air Corps and he served through desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces. He is an Eagle Scout from the 'Class of 1936', and says that, without Scouting, we would not be the country we are today! It is essential that one lives their life according to the Scout Oath and Law.

If you are not already familiar, due to racial segregation in the United States, the Tuskegee pilots, also referred to as the "Red Tails" because of the red tails of their planes, were an African-American division of the Army Air Corps. They all were trained at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama because it had sufficient resources and was already fully staffed to support segregated education. Colonel Magee informed us that a 1925 War College paper said that black people didn't have the character to serve as combatants in war. The situation was complicated because the issue wasn't just the pilots. Due to segregation, everyone in

the unit, maintainers, administrators, cooks, lawyers, doctors, nurses, everyone all had to be black because many white people would refuse to serve with black people. These soldiers felt the same sense of national pride as any white person and wanted to serve their country in the war. They established the finest record of any fighter escort group in World War 2 and experienced the lowest loss rate of their escorted bombers because they stuck with them as long as they could! They did their duty magnificently and became the most revered group of fighter pilots in the country due to their bravery and efficiency in air combat.



Original Fighter Aircraft assigned to the 'Red Tails' – the Bell P-39 Airacobra



Colonel Magee with his first "kitten", a P-39 Airacobra and his Crew Chief!

Colonel McGee entered Tuskegee in 1942 and graduated from the Tuskegee Institute Air Cadet Program as a lieutenant in 1943. Never having been in an airplane before Tuskegee, he immediately "caught the bug" and loved to fly. In fact, he never even knew he could fly; it all happened coincidentally. While in combat in WW 2, his squadron transitioned briefly from the P-39 to the P-47 Republic Thunderbolt for three weeks before moving to the North American P-51 Mustang. The change in aircraft was made because the P-39 did not have the range ('legs') to escort bombers deep into Germany. He named his aircraft "Kitten" after his wife!

Tuskegee Pilot Visits Crew 27 & Presents an Incredible Message

By Gen, NCAC Crew 27

He continued to name his plane after her throughout his career! The P-51 was his favorite aircraft but he went on to fly the F-80 Lockheed Shooting Star in the Korean War. The F-80 was the first operational U.S. Jet fighter. When asked about the transition from reciprocating engine aircraft to jets, he noted that the jets were much easier to fly because the engines were so much simpler to operate. Later in his career, during the Vietnam War, he flew the McDonnell Douglas F-4 'Phantom II' which he also named "Kitten." His "kittens" had claws though and he was credited with kills in combat. Colonel McGee has over 6,000 hours of flying as a fighter pilot. He says that of all of the men lost to the air, the Red Tails lost the smallest percentage of the bombers they escorted, contributing greatly to the Allied cause. There were over 121,000 airmen lost or injured in WW 2, most in the European Theater of Operations. The outstanding performance of the Tuskegee Airmen overturned many preconceptions about African-Americans. They were never 'inferior' as the 1925 paper said. In fact, they overcame all odds to make a superlative contribution to the U.S. war effort and continued to serve with distinction after President Harry Truman desegregated the U.S. Armed forces in 1948 with executive order 9981. The Tuskegee Airmen were a significant part of what made executive order 9981 possible!

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE ARMED SERVICES

WHEREAS it is essential that there be maintained in the armed services of the United States the highest standards of democracy, with equality of treatment and opportunity for all those who serve in our country's defense;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed services, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.

2. There shall be created in the National Military Establishment an advisory committee to be known as the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, which shall be composed of seven members to be designated by the President.

3. The Committee is authorized on behalf of the President to examine into the rules, procedures and practices of the armed services in order to determine in what respect such rules, procedures and practices may be altered or improved with a view to carrying out the policy of this order. The Committee shall confer and advise with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary

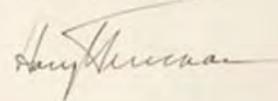
- 2 -

of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, and shall make such recommendations to the President and to said Secretaries as in the judgment of the Committee will effectuate the policy hereof.

4. All executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Committee in its work, and to furnish the Committee such information or the services of such persons as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties.

5. When requested by the Committee to do so, persons in the armed services or in any of the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall testify before the Committee and shall make available for the use of the Committee such documents and other information as the Committee may require.

6. The Committee shall continue to exist until such time as the President shall terminate its existence by Executive order.



THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 26, 1948.

ORIGINAL ACQUIRED
FILED AND MADE AVAILABLE
FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
Jul 27 10 39 AM '88
IN THE OFFICE OF THE
FEDERAL REGISTER

9981

Tuskegee Pilot Visits Crew 27 & Presents an Incredible Message

By Gen, NCAC Crew 27

Colonel McGee stressed that no matter what people say or do, you can do whatever you put your mind to; you shouldn't let people tell you what you can and cannot be. He, of course, grew up in the horrible period of segregation, constantly hearing the phrase, "you can't do that because you are black." He decided to turn this sour message sweet by telling young people such as myself that we should believe in ourselves and that we should treat others as we would like to be treated. This is completely coherent with the Scout Oath and Law! "A Scout is kind." He lives by what he calls the "Four Ps."



A P-39 Airacobra at Tuskegee Institute!

Perceive: dream your dreams and discover your talents; **Prepare:** get a good education and develop your talents, a Scout is always prepared; **Perform:** do your best, set goals and achieve the best; and **Persevere:** don't allow circumstances hinder your achievements. The People of the United States persevered too. We *are* the future of this great nation, it is our responsibility to continue to serve others and make our nation and world a better place.

Colonel McGee says that his favorite experience in flying was taking off at sunset. He recalls climbing to 40,000 feet in the air and seeing the sunset again from the tops of clouds, watching a canopy of stars fall over the sky. We are just such small specks in the universe and there is so much opportunity out there for us. Always remember to never give up!



Col McGee with Crew 27, 4/23/2017



Crew 27 with Colonel Charles Magee!

Sources:

P-39 "Red Tail" image from:

<http://www.warbirdsnews.com/airshow-news/29th-annual-wings-houston-airshow-october-26-27.html>

Col McGee in front of P-39 "Kitten" from:

https://library.creativecow.net/kaufman_debra/Tuskegee-Airmen/1

Tuskegee P-39 image from:

<http://americannewsbroadcasting.blogspot.com/2012/02/tuskegee-airmen-honored-at-red-tails.html>

Executive Order 9981 from: https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc_large_image.php?doc=84

Scouts Venture out to Camp Somers for the 2017 AdVenturee

By Patriots' Path Council VEX Committee

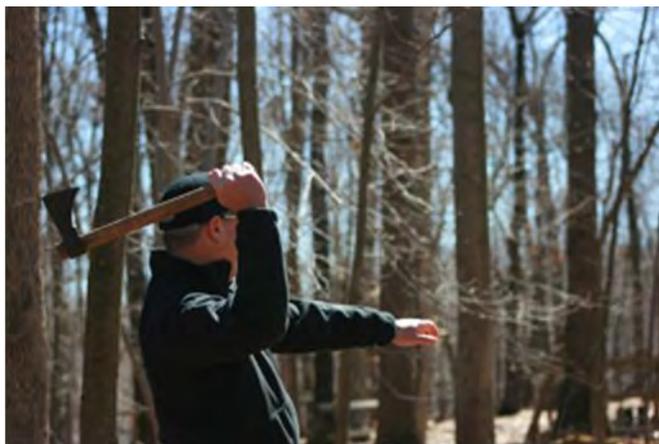
On April 7-9, 2017, the Patriots' Path Council (PPC) Venturing Exploring eXperience Committee (VEX) held its annual AdVenturee. The AdVenturee is a PPC council event targeting the Venturing, Exploring and Sea Scout units. This year's event was Star Wars themed and hosted at Camp Somers, Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Stanhope, NJ. In attendance this year were units from multiple councils and both Venturing and Exploring participated in the weekend's activities.



The program focused on high adventure activities and award requirements, all while being incredibly fun. Sessions included pistol shooting, archery, shotgun shooting, ATV training and riding, COPE, a night-time climb, mountain biking, land navigation, astronomy and rocket building. Other activities included tomahawk throwing, dessert making, candy making, light saber making, giant Jenga and other games. In addition to all these activities, first aid & CPR trainings were also offered.

There were also STEM related activities such as a HAM radio shack and a drone demonstration throughout Saturday. One scout was able to communicate with someone from Austria via HAM radio. In addition to the drone demo, the pilot flew the drone and recorded the action as it unfolded.

Scouts also had the opportunity to participate in a camp conservation project. The project was to help rid the camp of an invasive plant. Those working on this project were aided by goats which were brought in by a local farm.



On Saturday, after a full day of activities, participants were encouraged to meet at Voller's field to participate in the launching of the rockets built earlier in the day. After dinner on Saturday night, the scouts were able to participate in night climb, view the stars and planets through a high power computerized telescope and of course, watch a Star Wars movie while enjoying freshly made popcorn.

There were so many activities that every attendee and staff member was able to tailor the experience to their interests. Scouts commented on how much they enjoyed building the light saber and using them afterwards. Other scouts found that they had discovered activities that planned to continue pursuing.

Scouts Venture out to Camp Somers for the 2017 AdVenturee

By Patriots' Path Council VEX Committee

One attendee said, "Pistol shooting was undoubtedly my favorite session of the day! It was great, because not only did we shoot at paper targets; we got to test our sharpshooting skills on playing cards, bowling pins and the "Death Star". The pistol range was not only fun, but very informative thanks to the excellence of the instructor staff. This was a great camping trip and was definitely one of my favorites."



The event was conceived, coordinated and executed by the youth members of the PPC VEX committee. One of the goals of this committee is to expand the methods in which our council serves its current Venturing crews, ships, and Explorer posts. This event is one of many projects the committee will be using to fulfill this goal.

To learn more about Venturing and the VEX committee, visit the VEX committee's website at: <https://ppcbsa.org/committees/youth-executive/venturing-exploring-xperience/>

Stephen Rozek

Venturing Crew 276 Silver Award Recipient
Youth Executive Committee Vice President of Venturing
PPC President of VEX
Northeast Region Area 5 Vice President of Communications



NEPA Council's Spring Fling -- June 3rd and 4th --- To be held at Camp Acahela.



SPRING FLING:
MISSIONS IMPOSSIBLE

WHEN
June 3rd - 4th
1pm - 11am

WHERE
Camp Acahela
2067635, Blakeslee, PA 19610

FEATURING - Pick your Poison - Invading Enemy Encampments - Search and Rescue

REGISTER AT: WWW.NEPABSA.ORG



NEPA VOA
LEAD THE ADVENTURE

ALL VENTURERS AND BOY SCOUTS AGES 14 - 21

REGISTRATION
\$25 per person before 5/30/2017

LATE FEE
\$30 per person for registrations on or after 5/30/2017

EXTREMELY AWESOME ADVISORS PRICE
*See leaders guide to get discount of \$5.00

QUESTIONS?
Message us on Facebook at NEPA Venturing Officers Association

This year's theme for the Spring Camporee is "MISSIONS IMPOSSIBLE". Baden-Powell described Scouting as "a game with a purpose". It is in that spirit that we offer the Spring Fling.

The camporee will be held may 3rd -4th , at Camp Acahela. Units should arrive around 1 pm Saturday afternoon to register, set up camp, participate in field games, enjoy a great prepared dinner meal (5:00pm) and opening campfire at 7:00 pm.

Scouts will be given secret orders that will direct them to their first night mission (event). They will be directed to a total of 11 Night Missions (including midnight meal). After each completed night mission, they will be given sealed orders directing them to their next mission.

The Missions will conclude by 1:00 am. All Scouts should be in their campsites and quiet by 2:00am.

Sunday morning we will have breakfast followed by award presentations, cleanup and departure. See schedule for exact times.

Please read the attached material carefully. Cost per participant is \$25.00, before June 4th 2017. The fee includes registration, a patch, the program, and dinner, snack and breakfast. In addition, there will be a special cost saving for "**Extremely Awesome**" leaders.

For additional information goto <http://voa.nepabsa.org/events/15-spring-fling-june-2017>

Leaders Guide <http://voa.nepabsa.org/media/ckfinder/files/Spring%20Fling%202017.pdf>

Register On-line at <http://nepabsa.org/upcoming-events/voa/voa-spring-fling>

Marine Technology Society Scholarships

By [Southern Region Commodore](#) | Apr 5, 2017



Each year the Marine Technology Society offers significant scholarships to college graduate, college undergraduate and senior high school students accepted into full-time marine-related programs with focus in marine technology, marine engineering and/or marine science. Sea Scouts have been recipients of these scholarships in the past, so if you are in or plan to be in one of those programs, this might be worth a try.

The deadline was April 19th, so if you are interested in applying, please look for the 2018 Scholarships in early March 2018.

see the information [here](#). Note that you do have to be an MTS member to apply, but that student memberships are only \$25.

Southern Region



SouthWinds Spring Break Trip

by Southern Region Commodore | Apr 15, 2017



Sea Scouts Ship SouthWinds 100 of the Atlanta

Area Squadron recently completed a sailing adventure in Saint George Sound and the Gulf of Mexico near Carrabelle, Florida. Ship 100 was founded in 2008 and completed our first trip to Florida in 2009. We've continued for nearly every year since then, short of a year or two when gas prices rose over \$4/gallon.

The Activity Chairman and Ship plan months in advance for boat preparation, menu planning, condo/slip reservations, GPS waypoint plotting, and chart review. We typically sail Catalina 22s, which are trailered easily. Stepping masts gets easier on each trip, too. Ship 100's fleet includes six Catalina 22s and we find them easy to sail with a crew of two to as many as five on board.

This year we left early Saturday morning on our Spring Break and headed south with boats in tow. Our destination was the Moorings at Carrabelle, which includes a boat slip with each condo rental: one for females and the other for males. We got boats set up and splashed the evening we arrived so we could get an early start the next morning. We scheduled three days of sailing in the Gulf of Mexico and in the sheltered Saint George Sound behind two barrier islands: Dog Island and Saint George Island. The Ship was able to sail two of the three planned days.

Read the full account of the trip here, including lighthouse tours, dolphins, and lots of sailing!

SouthWinds Spring Break Trip

by Southern Region Commodore | Apr 15, 2017



One of the channel markers out in the Gulf.

One of the many beautiful houses on Dog Island; this one on the eastern end and showing off a copper roof.



This sunken trawler is in the pass between Dog Island and Saint George Island. We saw a lot of boats circling it and fishing around it, so it must be a hot spot for fishing.



There are often fishing boats and trawlers on anchor in the Sound.

Some of the many dolphin that put on a great show for us.

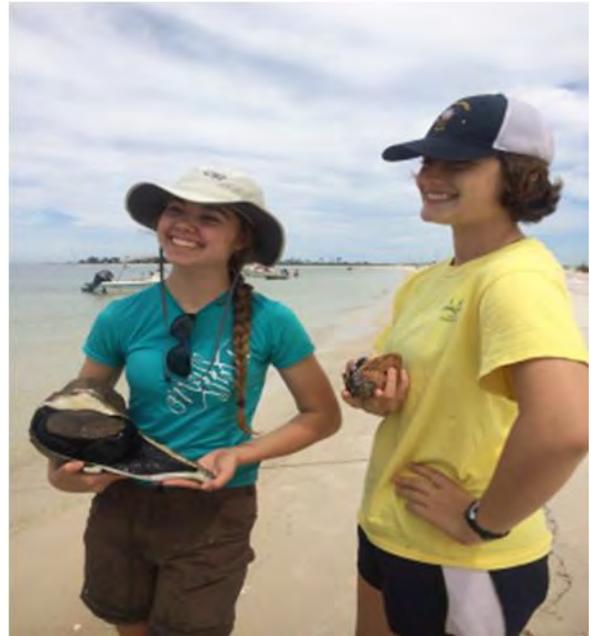


SouthWinds Spring Break Trip

by Southern Region Commodore | Apr 15, 2017



Two of our Scouts found a “Lightning Whelk” at Shipping Cove in knee deep water at Shipping Cove beach: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinistrofulgur_perversum. This is in the whelk family and is a carnivore, unlike a conch, which is an herbivore. We did return “Nelson” back to where he was found.

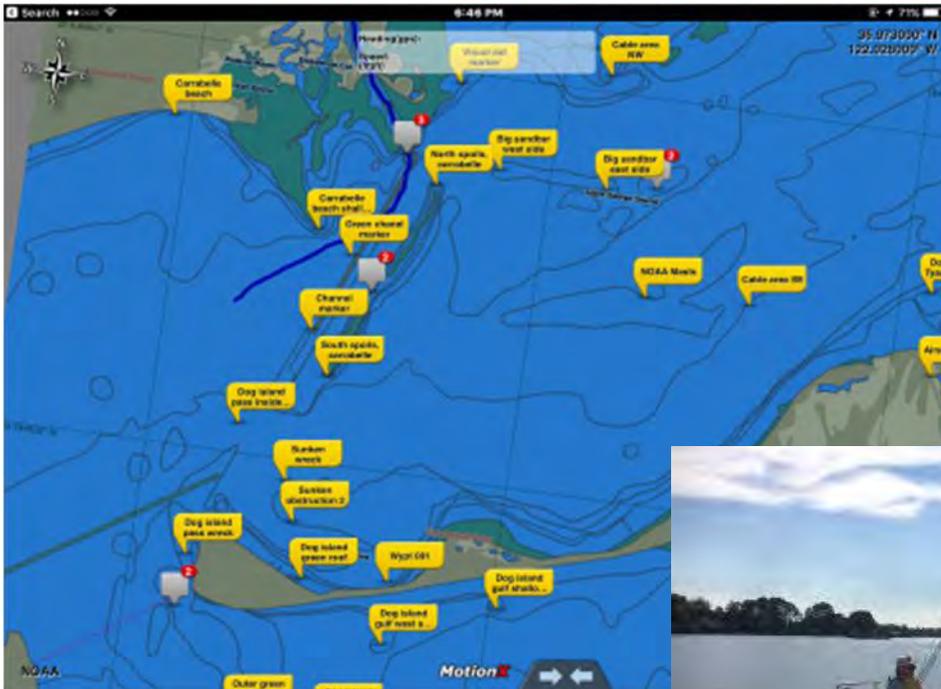


Here is a photo of a handheld GPS unit, one of the many navigation tools we used to keep us out of the shallows. Additionally, we used a compass, paper charts, and an iPad chart plotter app. Reading the paper charts is very useful and a practical skill to learn. Paper charts don't require batteries.



SouthWinds Spring Break Trip

by Southern Region Commodore | Apr 15, 2017



Day 2 – We cancelled our sailing for the day due to approaching bad weather. We visited a local boat yard and met up with a local Scouter, who gave us a tour of his personal boat as well. We spotted this military landing craft from WWII, and were told it helped deliver all of the home building supplies to Dog Island.



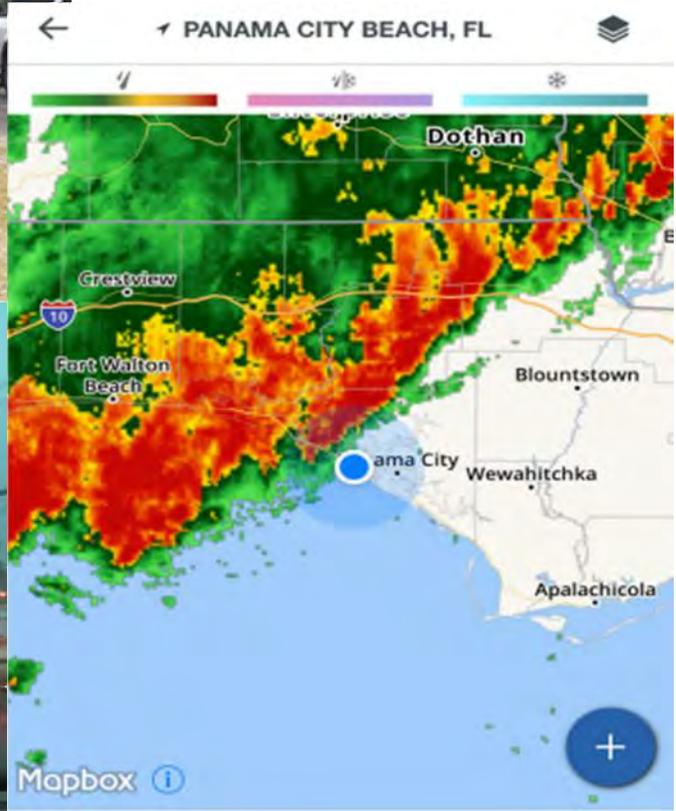
A few more interesting boats we found being worked on in the boat yard.

SouthWinds Spring Break Trip

by Southern Region Commodore | Apr 15, 2017



We drove in to Panama City Beach for a day of fun while we were off the boats. We knew to stay off the boats because of the approaching weather.



Day 3 – We waited out the morning for the remainder of the bad weather to pass by. We spent this time carrying on some of the traditions we started during our first trip to Carabelle and Saint George Island: getting ice cream and climbing the Saint George Lighthouse. We sailed 11 miles that afternoon, and still had time to break down boats and get them back onto the trailers.

SouthWinds Spring Break Trip

by Southern Region Commodore | Apr 15, 2017



In prior years, we've been able to meet up with the Coast Guard for a tour of a base and a ride on a 41' cutter in Panama City Beach.

On several occasions, we've been given a tour of the local FWC Gulf Sentry 85' patrol boat. This boat has a crew of 4-7 officers doing 24-hour shifts. They spend their time doing rescue work, patrolling, and educating the public on indigenous wildlife like sea turtles. This boat was rebuilt in 2010 adding a new tower and ramp for an inflatable on the back.



Conclusion – We completed our annual trip to Florida having lots of fun, learning, and fellowship. This trip also let us practice basic navigation skills, because often we cannot see our destination. Plus, this is a safe place that allows for mistakes and the use of safe boating skills. We also get to listen to all sorts of radio traffic from Tampa to Mobile, including Coast Guard, working boats, and pleasure craft.

Sea Scout Offshore Keelboat Racing

by Southern Region Commodore | Feb 7, 2017



Skipper Rob Freas, of Texas Gulf Coast SEAL fame, has been working to outfit a competitive offshore racing boat and is racing that boat with an all Sea Scout crew. Sea Scout Training Vessel Sirly is a 40' ocean racer with hi-tech Kevlar® and Spectra® sails that runs at 7-9 knots on a reach and downwind with a 1500 sq ft spinnaker at up to 11-12 knots. SSTV Sirly is a very competitive boat and has been quite successful in the season so far. The culmination of this season will be the Harvest Moon Regatta in October, a 150 nm offshore race from Galveston to Aransas Pass in Texas.

Serious racing takes your sailing skills to a whole new level. Sea Scout Jack Otto says: *When you are invited to race with Skipper Freas you think to yourself, "Finally I know enough about sailing to go race!" Long story short, you don't. When I first raced I thought I was set and knew exactly what was going to happen, then I had the most educational 3 hours of my life. The things about a boat that you*

have cruised are taken to the next level when you race, the boat can go faster, much faster. I don't believe there will be a speed that satisfies Skipper Freas. We all learn how to sail, but the part I like most about racing is the teamwork, and how we are all striving towards that one goal, winning.

Racing is also a personal growth opportunity. According to Sea Scout Hannah Mattes: *I've never left a boat without learning something. Every race is a new opportunity, a new chance to grow and discover more about sailing and, consequently, myself. I've learned a ton about dedication, problem solving, creativity, and perseverance. Sailing opens the doors to a new kind of magic: who knew 7 knots and some heeling was so exhilarating? It's such a rewarding and humbling experience, and that's why I'll never give up racing.*

SEAL is a great way to build the confidence needed to get started racing. Sea Scout Savannah Cushman says: *I have been in Sea Scouts for about four years now and let me just say, it is an incredible organization to be a part of. Especially for me, within the year of 2016. Due to my attendance at SEAL Course (Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership training) in Galveston, instructed by Skipper Rob Freas, the knowledge learned within the course and even prep before attending at the Lakewood Yacht Club, allowed me to be prepared for sailing races. Which, I planned to attend afterward, it wasn't an easy process, there were nights of studying, asking tons of questions (better be safe, than sorry when you're on the water), anything I could do to prepare myself. And, with the prep time I took beforehand, allowed me to attend in October the Harvest Moon Regatta with my instructor Skipper Freas as a crew member, and in February of this year, the Icicle Race 3. I personally come back to sailing, or even being on a boat as a second home. Being able to say to others that you go sailing as much as you can, isn't something every other person can say. I take pride of what I've accomplished within Scouting, but I also take into consideration the knowledge I still don't know. And, that's another reason why I come back, to learn from the best and be able to hopefully later be able to replicate what you've been shown.*

You can follow the team at <https://www.facebook.com/txsскеelboat/> – if you are interested in participating, either send a message via that Facebook page or use the contact form on <http://southern.seascout.org> and we'll get you in touch with Skipper Freas.

Savannah Cushman: 2017-2018 Southern Region Boatswain

by Southern Region Commodore | Apr 3, 2017

Please welcome Savannah Cushman, our Southern Region Boatswain for 2017-2018. Savannah is from Sam Houston Area Council Ship 208, SSS Red Skies. She lacks only her Bridge of Review to become an Able Sea Scout. She is a SEAL and NYLT graduate, and has served as Ship Boatswain. She is a certified lifeguard and is SCUBA certified. When not Sea Scouting, Savannah is an oboist, a Varsity Tennis player, a former JV Volleyball player, and a participant in the STEM Academy at Robert E. Lee High School, where she was recently recognized as STEM Student of the Month. She is a National Honor Society member and a member of St. John's the Evangelist Catholic Church. Savannah will take office as Regional Boatswain on June 1st, 2017.



Seabadge Training – Unexpected Benefits

by Southern Region Commodore | Feb 24, 2017

As a senior Scouter of 55 years and Chairman of the Pamlico Sea Base Committee of the East Carolina Council, I reviewed the below listed objectives of Seabadge training with interest as I contemplated the question of whether or not a 73 year-old would benefit from another adult leadership course:

Improve the understanding of leadership, management, and motivational skills among adult leaders.

Provide management, leadership, and presentation skills and tools to adult leaders so that they may use and share them with others in their day-to-day Scout activities.

Use the skills and tools acquired at Seabadge to improve the quality of the Sea Scout program.

Encourage the development of lifelong contacts and sharing of resources by and between course participants and staff.



Having now completed the training and the practical application of skills learned by working my “RUTTER” (similar to a Wood Badge Ticket), I can now answer that question which had loomed in my mind with an emphatic YES! In addition to learning a great deal about Sea Scouting during the course and having the privilege of rubbing elbows with many like-minded scouters all focused on doing their best to serve, I would be remiss if I did not point out several unexpected positive benefits of the training.

RENEWED EXCITEMENT & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE: *I discovered while developing my Rutter a renewed enthusiasm for Scouting which resulted in sharing an opportunity with my brother, a wood worker, to fabricate a Land Ship □ the new Land Ship has now been delivered to the Pamlico Sea Base. Delivery of the Land Ship also caught the interest of my neighbor who subsequently registered as a new Scouter so he could get involved. The enthusiasm also spilled over to my long-standing but little work goal of completing the Pamlico Sea Base Strategic Plan □ not only has the new 325 page Strategic Plan has been delivered but also 26 goals were formatted using the SMART GOALS technique which I learned during the training!*

EXPANDED PAMLICO SEA BASE (PSB) MISSION OUTREACH: *As a result of my interaction with the members of my training crew, I quickly came to appreciate and value a new role for the PSB as a center for Sea Scout activities. The idea of including a Sea Scout program outreach to the PSB mission led to a survey of local and regional Sea Scout ships from which the elements of new programs are now being developed. Beginning this year the PSB will be offering programs for Sea Scout Ships to include a future Sea Scout Rendezvous and Regatta.*

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP GROWTH INITIATIVE: *As I became more knowledgeable about Sea Scouting (the second oldest Scouting program), It became apparent that the East Carolina Council (ECC) with its expansive coastline and nautical heritage was a natural for Sea Scouting. As a consequence, the Sea Scout message has been carried to several key ECC Districts as one of my Rutter initiatives. In addition, the ECC Commissioner, also a participant in the Seabadge Training, is promoting Sea Scouting opportunities at the Council level as another youth membership growth and outreach tool! So now, when asked whether the Seabadge course is worth the time, my answer is GO FOR IT! In addition to making you a better leader YOU should also expect the unexpected □ I am positive that YOU find the experience valuable and will also take away many unexpected positive benefits as a result of the training! Fair winds and following seas,*

*Harry Sanders
Pamlico Sea Base Committee Chairman
East Carolina Council
Alpha Crew – Seabadge SB-26-NC-2016*

Harry Sanders

Pamlico Sea Base Committee Chairman

East Carolina Council

Alpha Crew – Seabadge SB-26-NC-2016



2017 Southern California Commissioner College

Sponsored by California Inland Empire, Greater Los Angeles Area, Long Beach, Los Padres, Orange County, Southern Sierra, Ventura County, Verdugo Hills, and Western Los Angeles County Councils.



Annual Southern California Commissioner College Greater held on March 18, 2017 at Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies Center in Reseda, CA.

Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps, Rose Bowl District, Greater Los Angeles Area Council performing the opening ceremony playing "Assembly" and "To the Colors." Calling attention to the start of the event. From left to right: Bailey and Bryan.



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EAGLE COURT OF HONOR FOR BENJAMIN GRACE

Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Benjamin Grace held on February 23, 2017 at St. Rita Parish, Sierra Madre, CA.



Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps, Rose Bowl District, Greater Los Angeles Area Council performing the opening ceremony playing "Assembly" and "To the Colors". From left to right: Bryan and Bailey.



Websites

National Venturing

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing.aspx>

National Sea Scout

<http://www.seascout.org/>

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

Northeast Region Sea Scouting

<http://www.nerseascout.org/>

Southern Region-Venturing

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

Southern Region Sea Scout

<http://sregion.seascout.org/>

Western Region Sea Scouts

<https://wrseascouts.wordpress.com/>

Western Region Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/venturing/>

UniformingFAQ.asp

Venturing Magazine

www.venturingmag.org

National Exploring

<http://www.exploring.org/>

Yahoo Groups

Central Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>

Northeast Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nerventuring/>

Southern Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srventuring/>

Western Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wrventuring/>

National

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>



the FORUM

The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National..

The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.

“The FORUM” has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Leaders and Professionals newsletter. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.

As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter .

Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief

Pete Mapes—Associate Editor

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